

Nuclear-free world cannot be - Thatcher

By Anthony Bevens, Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister has rejected the ambition of President Reagan and Mr Mikhail Gorbachev for a nuclear-free world as "pie in the sky."

In an exclusive interview with The Times, Mrs Thatcher said: "Both the President and Mr Gorbachev have said that they want to see a world without nuclear weapons."

"I cannot see a world without nuclear weapons. Let me be practical about it. The knowledge is there to make them."

"So do not go too hard for that pie in the sky because, while everyone would like to see it, I do not believe it is going to come about."

In one of the most wide-ranging and politically important interviews since the election, Mrs Thatcher said that Mr Graham Day, British Leyland's chairman-in-waiting, might now get involved in the consideration of privatization plans.

She suggested that the Conservative manifesto commitment to steel privatization, and proposals for limited rent decontrol, would be delayed beyond the next election.

She said that she expected to introduce new industrial relations legislation soon after she was re-elected for a third term.

She gave her 25-year vision of popular capitalism.

She attacked "arrogant" critics who called for curbs on tax cuts.

She said that the failure to extradite Miss Evelyn Glenholmes should not be allowed to cloud judgement on the Anglo-Irish agreement.

Mrs Thatcher said that it was a mistake to think that a purely commercial decision could have been taken on British Leyland and Land Rover, because of the feelings which had been aroused.

But she said that the Government was now left with "painful" decisions and "considerable problems" and she added that Mr Day might now get involved because he would be "charged with the duty of finding the best way ahead."

On her plans for industrial relations legislation, Mrs Thatcher said she thought the closed shop was "repugnant",

and that that, along with the enforceability of contracts between employers and trade unions and an extension of ballots for trade union officers would have to be considered.

Asked about her plans for education, the Prime Minister said that no decisions had yet been taken on education credits to enable parents greater choice in schools.

She said that parents who used credits to send their children to independent schools might have to be taxed on the "enormous bonus" they were getting.

Challenged on the Government's direction and momentum, Mrs Thatcher said that inflation and direct taxes were coming down and more was being privatized.

But although the Government had extended "popular capitalism", it had only just got started.

"In about 25 years' time," she said, "there will be quite a lot of people, who will be inheriting something, because for the first time we will have a whole generation of people who own their own homes and will be leaving them, so that they topple like a cascade

down the line of the family, leaving to others not only their homes but some of their shares, some of their hulked society investments, some of their national savings certificates - only on a bigger scale than ever before.

"So that the overwhelming majority of people, who could never look forward to that before, will be able to say: 'Look, they have got something to inherit. They have got a basis to start on.' That is tremendous. That is popular capitalism."

The Prime Minister also attacked the arrogance of her tax cut critics.

She said: "When people come to me and say 'Don't reduce tax', the first question I ask of them is: 'Do tell me, is your income in the top half?'"

"Yes. 'Very considerably in the top half?'"

"And I say: 'Well, I do not find many people coming to me, teachers, nurses, people who are working hard but earning below average. I don't find them coming to me and saying 'you are leaving too much of my own money in my pocket, Mrs Thatcher.'"

"I find them coming and saying: 'I have not got enough of my own money left in my own pocket to pay my rates, to pay my fuel bills, to buy food and clothes.'"

Asked about the repercussions of the failure to extradite Miss Evelyn Glenholmes from Dublin last weekend, Mrs Thatcher said: "When these things happen, we feel just the same way as most other people about them but, equally, we have to say: 'Well now, look! Keep calm. Don't dash into anything which may put the long-term objectives in jeopardy.' And that I shall say."

Interview 4



The citizens of Chichester giving the Queen a warm welcome on a walkabout yesterday after she had handed out Maudie money to 60 men and 60 women. (Fergie protest, page 2)

US ships pull back from Gulf of Sirte

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The United States ended military manoeuvres off Libya yesterday, withdrawing its 30-ship armada from Colonel Gaddafi's "line of death" without further attacks or threats from Libya.

The three-carrier group will remain in the central Mediterranean for several days.

White House officials said the operation was "definitely a success". The manoeuvres, which began on Saturday night, were due to end next Tuesday but the White House clearly felt its point had been sufficiently put.

"We have demonstrated that we have the right to operate in international waters," the State Department said.

President Reagan telephoned the Commander-in-Chief of the Sixth fleet in the Mediterranean yesterday to praise the servicemen for their bravery.

"You have sent a message to the whole world that the United States has the will and, through you, the ability to defend the free world's interests," he told Vice Admiral Frank Kelso on board the fleet's flagship, Coronado.

He added that he was particularly pleased that no American losses had been suffered. "The fundamental principle of freedom of the seas, so important to the economy and security of the free world, has been upheld in the face of a reckless and illegal Libyan attack."

The Pentagon issued a revised tally of Libyan losses in two attacks mounted by the US on Monday and Tuesday. It confirmed the destruction of only two ships, contrary to earlier claims that four and possibly five had been sunk.

Those destroyed were a French-made Comhantant missile patrol boat attacked by Navy A-7 planes on Monday, and a Soviet-made Nannchka class missile patrol vessel.

The Administration yesterday urged Congress to speed up action on a \$4.3 billion plan to boost security at the US embassies considered to be particularly vulnerable to terrorist attacks.

In the US itself there has been a noticeable increase in security at some main airports. The Federal Aviation Administration advised airports and airlines to be increasingly aware of the threat of terrorism inspired by Libya, but did not recommend specific action.

Russians explain, page 7

Kinnock fights to limit damage over executive walkout

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr Neil Kinnock struggled yesterday against taunts from his political opponents to counter the electoral repercussions of the Labour Party's trouble-torn efforts to bring the Militant Tendency to heel.

Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democratic Party, said that Wednesday's events culminating in the collapse of the disciplinary hearing against Liverpool's Militants after a walkout by seven members of the national executive committee, undermined what the electorate most feared - the scale and depth of the penetration by the hard left of the entire Labour Party.

At the Fulham by-election, in the Commons and elsewhere, Conservative and Alliance politicians pounced with unrelenting delight to exploit Labour's difficulties.

But Mr Kinnock, whose fury at the action of Mr Tony Benn, Mr Eric Heffer and their five colleagues in thwarting the expulsions of the Militants was unabated, continued his efforts to demonstrate his grip over the party and his determination to expel the Militant leaders.

After a long series of broadcasts on Wednesday trying to limit the damage of the NEC disaster, Mr Kinnock yesterday challenged Militant supporters to leave the Labour Party and fight under their own colours, when they would be "hammered by the Labour Party and hammered by the British electorate".

He said that the seven members who walked out were a "very isolated minority" and were even smaller now as a result of their actions. He was expressing a

view held by several of his senior colleagues that the only good that might come out of the affair would be a further diminution in support for the Benn-Heffer-Dennis Skinner axis on the executive.

Hard left trade union elements who would normally back them are furious at their action and at least one, Mr Eric Clarke, of the National Union of Mineworkers, is thought likely to face a difficult fight to retain his NEC seat in the summer.

Mr Kinnock said in a BBC radio interview: "Those who walked out, mature people at least in years, know very well that what they did cannot do anything to enhance - our standing with the public."

Liverpool's Militant activists who thwarted attempts to expel them from the Labour Party were last night threatening more embarrassment for the national leadership (Peter Davenport writes).

It was expected to come at a meeting of the temporary coordinating committee formed by the national executive committee to run party affairs in the city during the district party's suspension.

Both Mr Tony Mulhearn, president of the district party, and Mr Derek Hutton, deputy Leader of the city council, have been elected as delegates to the 44-member committee.

It was expected last night that moves would be made to have Mr Mulhearn elected as committee chairman and that he would then try to reconvene the district party.

Last night he said: "The battle is far from lost. Right is on our side and we shall be fighting every step of the way."

Express threat to close after Easter

By Peter Evans

Express Newspapers will close after Easter Monday's publications unless agreement is reached on a cost cutting package including 2,500 redundancies.

That was the warning given last night to staff in London, Manchester and Glasgow by Mr Roger Bowes, chief executive.

He said in a letter to them: "Despite the co-operation by the majority of chapels (office union branches), we have not been able to secure the agreement for a number of chapels either to the new manning level or the new house agreement."

"I am sure you will understand that the company must meet its objectives in all areas because of the frailty of our position in the market-place. The company will, therefore, close following the publication of Easter Monday's titles, unless we have secured all the agreements by Monday night."

"As you know, the enhanced early retirement and generous redundancy terms will also cease at that time."

United Newspapers which recently took over Fleet Holdings, owners of the Daily Express, Sunday Express and The Star, have been trying to cut the 6,800 staff at Express Newspapers in a bid to reduce costs.

The National Union of Journalists-chapel is understood to be among those

Palace bans wedding T-shirts

By John Young

Buckingham Palace became embroiled in controversy yesterday over a decision to ban the use of royal portraits and emblems on T-shirts and other articles of clothing to commemorate the wedding of Prince Andrew and Miss Sarah Ferguson.

The Lord Chamberlain, Lord Airlie, announced rules which go even further than those imposed at the time of the Prince of Wales's marriage to Lady Diana Spencer in 1981.

They specifically state that royal emblems and images may not be used on textiles and clothing, apart from handkerchiefs and wall hangings.

A Palace spokesman said: "It is the Queen's decision. She does not feel that T-shirts are a suitable place for royal photographs. The wording has been changed to make it doubly clear that British firms should not make or sell such T-shirts."

But within hours of the announcement a Commons motion had been tabled urging the Palace to reconsider its decision.

The motion's sponsor, Mr Max Madden, Labour MP for Bradford West, said the decision would "flash a signal to overseas producers in cash in on a multi-million pound bonanza with imported clothing bearing emblems, thus putting British clothing manufacturers again in the position of facing unfair foreign competition."

When the earlier ban was announced at the time of the wedding of the Prince and Princess of Wales, 71 MPs from all parties signed a Commons motion describing it as "an absurdity at a time of huge unemployment in the textile industry."

The British Textile Confederation said it would mean the market would simply be supplied by foreign companies.

Yesterday's Palace announcement says that sovereignty must be specifically related to the royal wedding, must be of a permanent nature, "in good taste" and carry no advertising or implication of royal custom or approval.

Weather forecast, page 16

Easter in the sun for Britons

By John Young

Unprecedented numbers of Britons will be spending the Easter break away from home, many of them heading for Mediterranean resorts to escape the predicted and predictable unsettled weather at home.

Heathrow airport yesterday had one of its busiest days, with more than 100,000 passengers, compared with 75,000 on a normal day.

Things were not made any easier by a security alert after threats of reprisal attacks motivated by the conflict between the United States and Libya in the Mediterranean.

Police officers armed with machine guns patrolled the airport corridors, and plainclothes police and airline security officers mingled with the crowds, especially around Middle Eastern and American flights.

But a work-to-rule by Customs staff, which it had feared might disrupt services, appeared to be having little effect. Customs and Excise officials said that contingency arrangements had been made.

The home travel industry also expected a bumper Easter. The United Kingdom Holiday Bureau, which represents the four domestic national tourist boards, said a survey showed "a fantastic boost" to holiday bookings.

British Rail said it would be operating nearly 300 extra trains over the holiday.

However, those holidaying in Britain were warned to expect showery weather at best, and the RAC warned motorists, and caravanners in particular, to beware of high winds.

Coach operators were less ebullient, and there was still plenty of room for would-be travellers. Additional coaches will run to the more popular destinations, but commuter services will be reduced.

Mr John Wyatt, chief ranger of the Lake District national park, warned visitors to be wary of conditions on the fells. His warning followed the death of Matthew Wall, aged 16, from Bristol, who fell 20 feet from Helvellyn.

West Germany to join Star Wars research

Washington - The US and West Germany signed an agreement yesterday under which Bonn will take part in President Reagan's controversial strategic defence initiative (SDI) research programme (Our Correspondent writes).

West Germany becomes the second ally after Britain to join the so-called "Star Wars" project, which is bitterly opposed by the Soviet Union.

Mr Casper Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, and Mr Martin Bangemann, West German Economics Minister, signed the agreement at the Pentagon after months of negotiations.

In talks with Mr Bangemann on Wednesday Mr Weinberger engaged in considerable "give and take" on defining Bonn's role in the research programme, and the controversial issue of the transfer of technology.

Tomorrow Back to the future



How the style of the Fifties, the forgotten decade of angry young men, has found favour with a new generation

Boat race blues

Can Cambridge break their losing run?

The big one

JUMBO Bank Holiday crossword

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio daily competition prize - £4,000 because there was no winner on Wednesday was won yesterday by Mr R.A. Brindley of Worthing. Portfolio list, page 26 how to play, information service, page 16.

Today, £22,000 can be won - £20,000 in the weekly competition and £2,000 in the daily. There is no Saturday game because the Stock Exchange is closed. Portfolio resumes on Tuesday.

Airlines tread a fine line between profit or loss. Increased traffic and lower fuel costs could help them survive the pressures of essential capital spending and a highly competitive marketplace. Pages 22-25

Table with 2 columns: Home News, Overseas, Apps, Arts, Briefs, deaths, marriages, Snow Reports, Court, Crosswords, Diary, Features, Law Report, Leaders. Includes page numbers and other details.

Tebbit in Tory party poll alert

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr Norman Tebbit, the Conservative Party chairman, yesterday placed his staff on alert for the next general election.

He announced a reorganisation of Conservative Central Office, aimed at preparing the party's election machine for what he described as the most sophisticated high technology campaign ever to be fought in Britain.

"We are now well into what could prove to be the vital year of preparation in the run-up to the next general election. From my point of view the campaign has already started," he said.

Although it was stressed that Mr Tebbit's move should not be seen as an indication of an early election, some Conservative officials found it difficult to recall being put on such a footing so far from the likely date of the next election.

There has been growing belief among Conservative strategists that the next poll will not come until 1988, although several key ministers favour autumn next year.

The party is facing several important by-elections, starting in Fulham on April 10, then in West Derbyshire and Ryedale. Early polls suggest it faces a slump in support.

Mr Tebbit said leading party officials would agree on an overall strategy for the general election in the next few weeks.

He disclosed that Sir Christopher Lawson, Conservative marketing director at the last election, will return to Central Office for the campaign.

Policemen suspended over death

A Chief Inspector, an inspector and two sergeants were suspended from duty yesterday hours after an inquest found that Mr John Mikkleson, a Hell's Angel, had been unlawfully killed while in police custody, Scotland Yard said.

No further details were given, but police sources said further suspensions were expected and could total seven.

The coroner's jury at Hammersmith, west London, returned a unanimous verdict that Mr Mikkleson's death be considered manslaughter due to the lack of care given to him after he was arrested in Feltham, west London, last July in connection with a car.

Mr John Burton, the coroner, referred the case to the Director of Public Prosecutions at the conclusion of the nine-day inquest.

The DPP said a police report on the affair had been under consideration for some time, but they could not say when a decision on any further proceedings would be reached.

During the inquest a pathologist said that Mr Mikkleson, aged 34, of Salters Road, north Kensington, died after head injuries caused by a truncheon had damaged his brain. Dr Iain West, of Guy's hospital, south London, added that he would have survived longer if he had received treatment earlier.

Dr West agreed that Mr Mikkleson could have been aspirating his vomit while lying on the ground during the arrest and was dying then.

Another forensic scientist. Continued page 2, col 2

There's no home like prison

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Life in a Kentucky prison is better than coming home for one Briton, who has rejected a repatriation offer.

The prisoner, serving a five-year sentence, earns \$80 (£53) a month working in a prison office, equipped with a stereo set and television, where use is made of his fluent Spanish.

The Saturday night menu includes vegetable soup, a T-bone steak with baked potatoes, salad, hot extras, followed by banana cake with cream and chilled beverages. Tennis rackets and watches can be bought at the prison shop.

But Edwin Dent, the first prisoner to be transferred to Britain under the new pact has given up use of a sauna and

swimming pool in a Swedish jail so that he can be near his wife and family.

Dent, now in overcrowded Wandsworth prison, London, has seen them for the first time for a year in which he had had no visitors at all. Mrs Dent said yesterday before a second meeting.

The Home Office said that a second prisoner, Peter Malcolm, who was sentenced to five years in June 1984, had now been transferred in a jail here from Sweden.

Half of the inmates who have so far replied to a questionnaire sent by the National Council for the Welfare of Prisoners Abroad do not want to return even although they may be eligible.

Some say they are better off where they are, the Council said.

So far, none of about 70 prisoners in jails here, who may be eligible, have been repatriated.

They are eligible if they are nationals of one of the six countries which have ratified the Council of Europe Convention on the transfer of sentenced persons and have at least six months of their sentence, excluding remission, still to serve on the date the convention came into force.

The latest estimate is that eligible prisoners include one from Sweden, 11 from France, 33 from the US, 16 from Spain and 16 from Canada.

Advertisement for Nescafé Gold Blend decaffeinated coffee. Text: "Only one decaffeinated coffee tastes as good as Nescafé Gold Blend." Includes an image of a Nescafé Gold Blend tin.

1,000 jobs to go at firm workers bought out

By Michael Bailey, annual losses roughly equal to annual earnings.

Since NFC was formed the two businesses have continued to lose money partly because they overlap and still suffer restrictive practices.

After several attempts to merge both going, NFC management decided to merge them into a single integrated business with about 1,000 of the 4,500 jobs being shed.

The National Union of Railwaymen representing NCL workers agreed to the merger, but the TGWU, representing BRS Parcels, opposed it and called for industrial action.

But there was no response, and already 700 staff have agreed to co-operate by crossing from the old BRS company to the new organization.

Sir Peter Thompson, the NFC chairman, said: "In an employee-owned company, the need to make people redundant is the most difficult decision the board has to take."

"I think the reason we have had not a single day's loss of work despite the TGWU call is that we have communicated well and done the whole thing in as humane a way as possible."

"We put up with the parcels loss for years, but in the end the management plan had to be to merge the two businesses, retaining the greatest possible number of jobs, and with generous arrangements for transfer or redundancy."

Land Rover sale may be delayed

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

BL may decide in the next few weeks against the immediate sell-off of its sought-after Land Rover subsidiary, with the aim of staging a Jaguar-style share sale next year.

Land Rover employees and the 65,000 individual private shareholders in BL would be likely to be given preference in a share allocation.

The possibility of a public flotation of shares emerged yesterday when the BL board made clear that after the collapse of negotiations with General Motors of the US for the takeover of the entire Land Rover Leyland group it might not sell Land Rover to anyone for the time being.

In a letter to Schroder Ventures, the merchant bank acting for the Land Rover management buy-out team, BL directors said they might wish to hold further discussions with prospective buyers. But this would be "before recommending whether or not any of the proposals received are to be pursued or the companies retained in BL ownership."

The management team, led by Mr David Andrews, the BL director responsible for commercial vehicles, and Mr Tiny Rowlands's Lonrho group are the only remaining bidders for Land Rover.

The possibility of a share sale next year took on greater significance after the collapse of the GM talks. The BL board had recommended that the Government accept the GM bid as being in the best commercial and industrial interests of the company. Directors now feel that by choosing one of the remaining bidders, they will be forced to recommend the second-best option.

BL's individual shareholders probably would welcome an opportunity to acquire shares in Land Rover. With the Government owning 99.7 per cent of the company, they have had little, if any, say in the way BL has been run. Their holding totals 25 million shares worth £12 million.

£25m plea for adult training

By Stephen Goodwin, Political Staff

The Commons select committee on employment called on the Government yesterday to spend an extra £25 million on training unemployed adults.

The Manpower Services Commission admits to being "strapped for cash" for adult training, which lags far behind the provision for young people.

In a report on the commission's plan for 1986-90, the committee expresses concern at the disparity. "It is depressing that mass unemployment and skill shortages exist side by side," it says.

The commission's witnesses told the committee that whereas its youth training budget is between £925 million and £1.1 billion for between 400,000 and 450,000 young people, the commission is expected to manage with £260 million for the training requirements of about half that number of adults.

Unlawful killing verdict

Continued from page 1

He said she had found traces of human blood on two police truncheons.

The coroner recorded that Mr Mickleton, who had been taken to Hounslow police station after being arrested, and then transferred to the West Middlesex Hospital where he was certified dead, had been unlawfully killed.

Earlier Dr Burton advised the jury on the possible verdicts they could reach.

He said unlawful killing would cover both murder and manslaughter. Murder was killing somebody deliberately, while manslaughter could be related to the force used.

He said that in considering the first possibility of manslaughter, the jury would have to decide whether police constable Richard Peacock had used reasonable force during the arrest.

After retiring for two and a half hours, the foreman of the jury returned a verdict of manslaughter.

Fugitive denies role in bomb attacks

Terrorist suspect Evelyn Glenholmes, on the run from the police in Ireland, yesterday denied any involvement in IRA bomb attacks in Britain.

In an "open letter" published in Sinn Fein's weekly newspaper, *Republican News*, Miss Glenholmes said she had no intention of going to prison for offences she did not commit.

The letter gives no clue to her whereabouts, but in it she thanks the people of Dublin for supporting her after her release by a city court and during later incidents when she was rearrested and shots were fired by a detective.

The letter said: "I do not wish to dwell on the shameful and negative aspects of the whole debate except to repeat that I am being pursued for offences which I had nothing to do with."

"People will say that if I have nothing to do with those offences then I would have nothing to fear if brought to court in England."

"The truth is that I have already been tried and convicted by the British and I have no intention of ending up like the Maguire, the Birmingham six, or the Guildford four, serving a sentence for something I was not involved in."

"Nor will I allow myself to be used by FitzGerald and co. in their efforts to suck up to Margaret Thatcher."

The letter goes on: "This letter is addressed mainly to the ordinary people of Ireland and especially to the people of Dublin who morally and physically supported me when I needed help most."

"The list is endless but I would particularly like to thank my 'other family', the people who gave me a home when I could no longer return to my own."

Detective in chase promoted

The anti-terrorist unit detective who fired three warning shots in the air in a crowded Dublin shopping street during the chase of Miss Glenholmes has been promoted.

Detective Christopher Power, who two years ago was wounded in a gun battle with Dominic McGlinchey, the former IRA leader, is to become an uniformed sergeant.

Two for trial on bomb charge

Two men from Northern Ireland were yesterday ordered to stand trial at the Central Criminal Court on charges connected with the planning of a bomb outside Chelsea Barracks, west London, on November 11 last year.

Peter Conleth O'Loughlin, aged 26, an unemployed carpenter, of St Julian's Road, Kilburn, north London, and Patrick Joseph McLaughlan, aged 26, also unemployed, of Bracken Park, Gallegg, Londonderry, were accused at Lambeth Magistrates' Court of conspiring with others to cause an explosion "likely to endanger life or cause serious injury to property."

Appeal against Dutch ruling

The Dutch Prosecutor's Office yesterday appealed against the court ruling that IRA members Brendan McFarlane and Gerard Kelly, cannot be extradited to Britain solely for their part in a 1983 escape from the Maze Prison, Belfast.

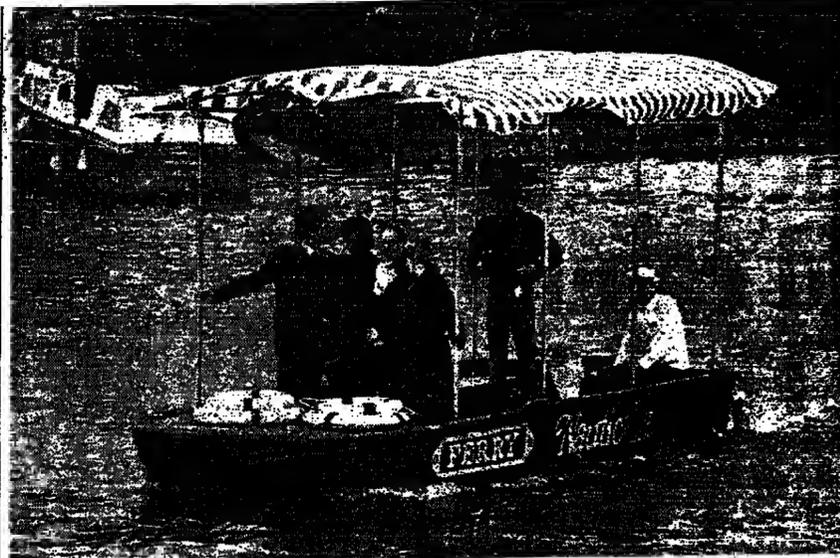
The court ruled out the escape as an extraditable offence, saying it was a political crime. The Dutch prosecutors want The Netherlands Supreme Court to decide what exactly are the limits in deciding what is a political crime.

Police alert for marches

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said yesterday that the Royal Ulster Constabulary would protect innocent people from provocation at Easter Monday's "loyalist" march at Portadown.

His remarks, in the Commons, reflected ministers' serious concern at the use of which hard-line Protestant elements will put the imminent marching season.

There is particular anxiety about this march



Mr Harry Pugh, Mayor of Spelthorne (third from left), making the first crossing after he had reopened the Shepperton-Weybridge ferry service yesterday. The ferry, last in service in 1960, restores the "royal walk," a 20-mile route along the Thames towpath between the royal homes at Windsor Castle and Hampton Court (Photograph: John Voos).

Countdown to abolition: 2

Picking the flesh from the bones

The great carve up is nearing its end. From Tuesday, only the bones of strategic local government in England's six largest provincial conurbations will be left to pick over.

Opponents of abolition said it would be impossible; yet the demolition of a complete tier of councils will go ahead.

The Government said it would save ratepayers' money from day one; but householders' bills will show no immediate savings.

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for the Environment, waxed lyrical, saying that, "like Keats' nightingale, they will cease upon the midnight with no pain."

But only 10 days before abolition, the Staff Commission set up as a quango to oversee the transition arrangements for employees, issued a circular.

Sir Philip Woodfield, its chairman, urged successor councils: "Do what you can in the short time remaining before the GLC and metropolitan councils are abolished to ensure that none of their employees are made redundant unnecessarily."

Up to 1,000 staff have "found themselves in the unhappy position of not having a permanent job to go to because of the tightness of the timetable, and various delays."

The most chaotic, predictably, is Merseyside, where at least 500 jobs will go because the three left-wing Labour district councils and two Conservative districts started cancelling abolition arrangements late in the day, and found it impossible to agree.

Community groups predict another 1,000 job losses in the voluntary sector as funding disappears.

Confusion is bound to continue. Chairmanship of the new police and transport joint boards have gone to Knowsley council, but Mr Derek Hatton, deputy leader of Liverpool and facing surcharge and disqualification from office, is to head the new fire service board.

In South Yorkshire, functions have been devolved to district councils as lead authorities. Only 251 staff out of 1,300 are still seeking jobs, and £2.9 million has been set aside to pay them off. Sheffield, Rotherham and Doncaster councils have promised to find work for any left that want a job, and 400 have gone to Barnsley council, where the County Hall is based, or to the police, fire and transport joint boards.

The West Midlands councils started their preparations earlier than most, and had the advantage of a liaison committee already in existence to deal with issues affecting the seven districts.

But, as in Greater Manchester, disputes have blown up over the chairmanship of the police joint boards. In both areas Labour nominees outnumber Conservatives, but Conservative chairmen have been elected because unelected magistrates have voted for them.

The West Midlands carve-up also produced administrative lead authorities: Sandwell on fire, Dudley for police, Coventry for public transport.

Privatization has saved control of Birmingham International Airport and the West Midlands Enterprise Board.

Mr Gordon Morgan, chairman of West Midlands, says: "This change in responsibilities will prove to be an extremely costly procedure."

West Yorkshire rate rises have shown no improvement. In Bradford they will go up by 30 per cent from next week, and by 27 per cent in Kirkstall, with councillors on both claiming that the rises are double because of abolition.

But the parceling up of responsibilities has gone smoothly on the whole, in spite of a battle between Bradford and Wakefield for control over the police headquarters, eventually won by Wakefield.

Tyne and Wear says there is "no sign of the savings predicted, or of any fewer staff being employed". Only 52 face redundancy, and the highest rate increase is 24.6 per cent, in Gateshead. There, too, lead authorities will take over functions.

Mr George Smith, Tyne and Wear's Conservative opposition leader, argues that the first year of abolition is too tight to assess savings, and believes that the new system could eventually save up to £2 million a year.

Time of reflection and celebration at last fling report

From Peter Davenport, Manchester

The last operational day of the five metropolitan county councils to be abolished in the north of England was marked in contrasting styles yesterday.

In Greater Manchester, the largest of the authorities outside the Greater London Council, all 1,400 County Hall staff were invited to a farewell party with roast ox, olde ale and muffled wine last night.

But there was a more sombre, low-key mood at the other county headquarters in West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, Merseyside and Tyne and Wear as the removal men carried out files and furniture.

One officer at the South Yorkshire council headquarters in Barnsley said: "There are no special events here, we are going out in a blaze of mediocrity."

The last weeks have been dominated by finding jobs.

The 106 Greater Manchester councillors will receive silver medallions to mark their service and the authority has spent £1,700 printing certificates for its staff.

All the authorities, except West Yorkshire which met yesterday, held their final council meetings early this week.

In farewell gestures the county authority in Wakefield gave a grant of £2.6 million towards the cost of building a new theatre in Leeds.

Labour rocked by Militant

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

Mr Nick Raynsford, the Labour candidate in the Fulham by-election, was on the defensive yesterday after the Militant purge fiasco.

His Conservative and Alliance opponents took advantage of the Labour National Executive Council's "stumbles" and claimed that Mr Neil Kinnock was losing the battle against extremism in his party.

The Social Democratic Party camp was cock-a-hoop over Labour's embarrassing failure to expel 12 Militants, and see it as a perfect issue to exploit as polling day on April 10 approaches.

"I am confident yesterday's events will probably transform the by-election," Mr Roger Liddle, the Alliance candidate, said.

Mr Liddle pointed to a leaflet circulated recently by Mr Raynsford in which he said "the few extremists" in the Labour Party were being firmly dealt with.

"Yesterday the Labour Party NEC ended in shambles and failed to expel just 12 Militants. Mr Raynsford's half truths on extremism in the Labour Party have been exposed," he said.

Mr Matthew Carrington, the Conservative candidate, said the whole Labour campaign lay in ruins.

Mr Raynsford has tied himself to Kinnock's coat tails and now that Kinnock has been outflanked by the Left his claim to moderation is clearly irrelevant.

In a damage limitation exercise, Mr Raynsford said: "I very much regret the behaviour of seven members of the NEC who in my view acted in an irresponsible way."

"It will simply postpone, but it will not change, the outcome."

Raynsford said: "I am not a member of the NEC. I am a member of the Labour Party. I am a member of the Labour Party. I am a member of the Labour Party."

Hard left stirs up trouble and arms itself in Wap ping dispute

By Michael Horsnell

In the early hours of last Sunday in Leman Street police station in the east end of London senior officers surveyed the bric-a-brac of their night's work outside News International's new printing plant where a crowd of nearly 7,000 had staged one of the most violent demonstrations against the newspaper group since January, when 6,000 striking printers went on strike and were dismissed.

Weapons pattered from the streets including bricks, bottles and pieces of lead. The previous weekend a similar group of weapons was found, including shotgun cartridges, inside the police station, about a mile from the plant, personal details of the 59 people who had been arrested were collated.

Only 21 were printers; the rest included seven unemployed, three machinists, five students, a messenger, a driver, a trade union official (Mr Tony Dubbins, general secretary of the National Graphical Association) a labourer, computer programmer, two managers, two journalists, a warehouseman, a technical instructor, shop assistant, railwayman, nurse, an income tax officer, a hospital ancillary worker, a researcher and photographer.

It is the print workers, however, who have been identified as being responsible for the recent spate of attacks on staff working at Wapping, including one man being smashed in the face with a broken glass near the company's former premises in Grays Inn Road and an attack with a sharp implement near an Underground station.

No one at Leman Street, from which officers are policing the biggest industrial dispute since the pit strike, was surprised at the statistics because fewer than 30 per cent of the 474 people arrested outside the plant so far have been printers.

In the days which followed police braced themselves for the usual tirade from the far left alleging that they have over-reacted in controlling demonstrators who have previously torn down sections of fencing and hurled crash barriers.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Wyn Jones, in charge of policing in the East End, said: "Once again on an occasion where extreme violence is directed specifically at police officers the arrests indicate that most of those responsible have little to do with the trade unions involved in this dispute."

At times during the most violent moments of the nine-week dispute an estimated 25 per cent of the demonstrators have marched and picketed under the banners of the Socialist Workers' Party, the anarchist Class War and Militant Tendency.

Despite the attempts of print union leaders to distance themselves from revolutionary groups, between whom there is a mutual hatred, the dispute has been the richest hunting ground for the far left since the miners' strike.

Activists from the SWP and the Revolutionary Communist Party have sought to extract political advantage from the difficulties of the unions which they want replaced by militant organizations based on the shopfloor.

Meanwhile the Communist *Morning Star* newspaper has accused the TUC of being "weak-kneed" over the Wapping affair, castigated Mr Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, it said: "The rank and file must take up the cudgels from today."

At least 14 printers' support groups, encouraged by the SWP, have sprung up in the

'Fergie' protest at Maundy service

From Alan Hamilton, Chichester

Four youths were arrested shortly before the Queen arrived in Chichester for the traditional Royal Maundy service yesterday. They had displayed a banner describing Miss Sarah Ferguson as a "parasite".

But they sounded the only jarring note on a day when the Queen went on walkabout among a 15,000-strong city centre crowd and had so many bunches of daffodils and tulips pressed on her that her entourage was brought up by police officers bearing bouquets armful of flowers.

Tight security surrounded the visit, not only to screen Chichester's ancient Norman cathedral from acts of terrorism, but to deter unscrupulous coin dealers who in past years have harassed recipients of the Maundy Money into parting with their specially minted coins.

Yesterday, 128 elderly recipients - a man and a woman for each year of the Queen's age - lined the cathedral aisles to be presented by their sovereign with a red and a white leather pouch.

One contained £5.50 in ordinary coinage; £3 for clothing, £1.50 for provisions and £1 for the redemption of the royal gown, a custom rooted in a time when a queen gave a discarded frock to the poorest woman of the diocese. The other contained 60p in Maundy Money, again reflecting the Queen's age.

There was a time when the monarch washed the feet of the poor, reflecting Christ's washing of the Disciples' feet.

The criterion for receipt of the royal favour is now to have rendered Christian service to church and community. And there are no ablations. The choice is made by rural deans, and is no longer confined to Anglicans.

Yesterday Bishop Cormac Murphy O'Connor, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Arundel and Brighton, and leading local Methodist and Baptist churchmen, joined the main church procession for the first time in the presence of the Supreme Governor of the Church of England.

Chichester's 300-year-old organ, newly restored at a cost of £250,000, graced the service with Handel's anthem *Zadok the Priest*, as television cameras made the first five outside broadcast of the ceremony.

Spy charge man bailed

Mr John Bothwell, aged 59, a retired US naval commander who is charged under section seven of the Official Secrets Act, was allowed bail by Bow Street magistrates yesterday with two sureties of £10,000 until April 24.

Mr Bothwell, of St James's Square, Bath, is charged with preparing to communicate information which may be useful to an enemy.

Guidelines on child workers

New guidelines are being prepared by the Government for checking the criminal background of people seeking work with children in the public services.

They will improve arrangements for reporting convictions for offences committed after engagement. Arrangements to cover the voluntary and private sectors will follow later.

BBC walkout

Thirty-five BBC vision mixers walked out on a 24-hour strike yesterday, but the corporation said Easter programmes would not be affected.

Two hundred and thirty-five jobs are to go at the Chicago poultry processing plant in Polk, California, because the management says it would cost too much to modernize.

Bone girl dies

Alicia Palmer, aged 17, who had bone cancer, has died at her home at Wilson Street, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, a month after receiving a Children of Achievement award for fighting the illness.

£27m loans

The Strathclyde region of Scotland is to get £27 million in loans from the European Investment Bank for water, sewerage, roads and rail projects.

Last Saturday, the newly formed National Union of Journalists "Broad Left" group held its inaugural meeting at Coway Hall, London. Appeals for a £5 membership fee, "we hope those who are well paid will contribute more", were made by Mr Bob McKee, acting secretary, who as publications editor at a firm of London chartered accountants, is a freelance member of the NUJ. The group seeks amalgamation with other newspaper unions in the wake of the NUJ's "failure to act effectively in the Wapping struggle".

Premier jobs

The Manpower Services Commission has made a £170,000 offer for the former grocer's shop home of Mrs Margaret Thatcher at Grantham, Lincolnshire, to turn it into a training base for jobless youths.

235 jobs go

Two hundred and thirty-five jobs are to go at the Chicago poultry processing plant in Polk, California, because the management says it would cost too much to modernize.

Bone girl dies

Alicia Palmer, aged 17, who had bone cancer, has died at her home at Wilson Street, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, a month after receiving a Children of Achievement award for fighting the illness.

More caught in credit trap

First-time home buyers pay the price of debt

By Gavin Bell

Thousands of first-time home buyers are becoming hopelessly entangled in mounting debt, unable to cope and losing their homes, according to a Shelter report published yesterday.

This week Miss Irene O'Connor became one of the increasing numbers creating mounting alarm among financial institutions, government legislators and voluntary bodies hurriedly set up to help those caught in debt.

On Tuesday Miss O'Connor, of Cowper Street, Luton, lost a long legal battle to save her home after failing to repay a bridging loan she had taken out to cover substantial mortgage arrears and other pressing debts.

She thereby joined almost 11,000 people whose homes were repossessed in similar circumstances last year — a four-fold increase in misery since 1979.

In the Court of Appeal, Lord Justice Dillon said he was troubled by his "prima facie view that the credit bargain was extortionate".

The judge helped to highlight a problem that consumer associations are treating as a national crisis by referring the finance company involved to the Office of Fair Trading, after hearing that the annual rate of interest on the loan was 48 per cent.

Mr Ivan Phillips, a director of Castle Phillips Finance, which extended the £11,000 loan and which will now take possession of the house valued at more than £22,000, firmly rejected the implied criticism and suggested that the judges were not familiar with credit practices.

"The normal market rate for short-term bridging loans is 4 per cent per month, hence 48 per cent per annum.

"It was not extortionate. It was fairly high, but was adequately justified by the high risks and costs involved", Mr Phillips told *The Times*.

Mr Phillips correctly asserted that the court had the authority and the duty to

The casualties

The statistics of the growing problem of debt, and its casualties, are:

More than one million council house tenants were behind with their rent in 1984. In London the figure was 350,000. The arrears were estimated at £240 million.

Building society mortgages 6-12 months in arrears rose from 8,420 in 1979 to 41,900 in 1984, and property repossessions from 2,530 to almost 11,000.

Actions for repayment of bank and finance house loans have tripled since 1980, and 1.5 million electricity users and one million gas consumers are having serious difficulty paying bills.

Since 1979, outstanding shop credit and hire purchase debts have outstripped new credits issued each year.

Finance house accounts with two or more payments in arrears rose from 5 per cent in 1979 to 7 per cent in 1984.

The real value of total debt in the country increased by 50 per cent from 1981 to £22 billion last year.

Sources: National Consumer Council, Audit Commission, Building Societies Association, Finance Houses Association, OFT.

The advice

Compare one deal with another by using the annual percentage rate of charge (APR) — basically the interest and other charges made for providing the credit.

Calculate outgoings on a weekly or monthly basis, and whether there is enough left over to meet repayments, as well as a reserve for emergencies.

List credit sources and consider which type is preferable; watch for anyone offering interest-free credit; make sure there are no hidden charges.

Use reputable companies; an OFT licence is necessary for almost all who offer credit or hire to the public.

Read carefully and understand the credit agreement, and check all figures, before signing: it is legally binding.

A second loan to pay off debts should be avoided.

Do not take out a second mortgage to pay off debts without knowing the risks: it could mean losing your home. Shop Around For Credit, Office of Fair Trading, Field House, 15-25 Bream's Buildings, London EC4A 3DF, or from local citizens' advice bureaux and Trading Standards departments.

and widespread ignorance about credit practices are important factors.

Sir Gordon Borrie, the director of the Office of Fair Trading, points the finger at credit card companies, retailers and others for going to what he terms absurd lengths in marketing their services and then entering into irresponsible deals with financially insecure clients.

"There should be less ambitious rhetoric about expanding home ownership. The potential borrower should be more wary about the steady drip of over-encouragement to borrow that comes from so many quarters."

A report by Shelter issued yesterday confirmed that many first-time home-buyers were ending up heavily in debt, partly through being misinformed or duped by mortgage brokers.

Sir Gordon also called on the Government and finance houses to help the casualties by supporting voluntary bodies such as the Birmingham Settlement Money Advice Centre, which counsels hard-pressed debtors.

A spokesman for the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux said its officers were receiving about half a million inquiries a year about debt problems, and he expected the demand to increase with growing unemployment.

Mrs Elizabeth Stanton, the chairman of an NCC working party on the problem, believes the existing law and practice on debt recovery is harsh, haphazard and inefficient.

She has suggested a network of enforcement officers along the lines of the Northern Ireland Enforcement Office, which would bring together creditors and debtors to work out a just and humane way of repaying debts.

Mrs Stanton adds a qualifying footnote: "It's important to keep the problem in perspective. Most people use credit at some time in their lives. Most pay off their commitments without difficulty."

7 in court on soccer charges

Seven men aged between 22 and 35 appeared at West London Magistrates' Court yesterday charged with affray and conspiracy to cause affray after police investigations into football violence.

Their appearances came after dawn raids on homes on Wednesday.

The charges arise from incidents in Liverpool, Birmingham and London last December.

All seven were remanded in custody until April 3 by Mr David Fairbairn, stipendiary magistrate.

The seven defendants were: Terry Last, aged 23, a solicitor's clerk, of Bow, east London; Sean O'Farrell, aged 33, an engineer, from Chislehurst, Surrey; Stephen Hickmott, aged 30, self-employed, of Turnbridge Wells, Kent; Dale Robin Green, aged 24, a Royal Navy cook, of Eastcote, west London; Douglas Welsh, aged 22, a plasterer's mate, of Crawley, West Sussex; Vincent Russell Drake, aged 22, a painter, of Brixton, south-west London; and William Lloyd George Reid, aged 24, a hospital porter, of south-east London.

No addresses were given.

Last, O'Farrell and Reid are charged with causing an affray at Diana Street, Liverpool, on December 10, last year.

Hickmott, Drake and Welsh are charged with conspiracy to cause an affray in Birmingham on December 21, last year.

Last and O'Farrell are charged with the same offence on the same day, also in Birmingham. O'Farrell faces a charge of conspiracy to cause an affray in London on December 28.

Hickmott and Drake are charged with conspiracy to cause an affray in the greater London area last December.

All seven are charged with conspiracy to cause an affray between December 9, 1985, and March 25 this year, within the jurisdiction of the Central Criminal Court.

Football thug led charge on the police

Shaun Kelly, aged 22, was jailed for four months yesterday after a wild charge on police during fighting between rival football supporters.

Kelly, a decorator, of Oare, Faversham, Kent, was convicted at Clerkenwell Magistrates' Court of using threatening behaviour in a clash with West Ham followers.

As police tried to separate the groups at Euston Station, Kelly, a Manchester United supporter, yelled: "Come on, let's get them. It's only the Old Bill."

Mr Jeffrey Bayes, for the defence, said: "He gets carried away when with a crowd."

But Mr Christopher Bourke, the magistrate, told Kelly: "The time has come for a stop to be put on this ferocious behaviour."

Warning on costs of private health

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Growth in private health care will practically cease soon if the increasing cost of private treatment is not moderated, according to Mr Roy Forman, chief executive of Private Patient's Plan, Britain's second largest health insurer.

The increase in private hospital charges and doctors' fees has been running far beyond the rate of inflation in recent years, Mr Forman said.

His comments, in a paper to the Industrial Society, follow similar warnings at the end of last year from Mr Bob Graham, chief executive of BUPA, Britain's largest health insurer, who told private hospitals that they were in danger of "killing the goose which lays the golden eggs".

Mr Forman said: "If that increase is not moderated soon and sizeably, the net growth of the private health care sector in the UK will be very small because many existing subscribers will be unable to go on affording the cost of insuring themselves."

He added that the insurers,

Call to end BT phone monopoly

Rivals to British Telecom are calling for its monopoly to be ended.

Equipment suppliers and manufacturers have told the telephone watchdog, OfTel, that the public would get a better deal with competition.

Installation prices would be cut by a quarter and more choice would allow users to shop around for best prices, the dealers claimed.

It is thought open competition would exert considerable pressure on British Telecom to reduce queues for installations.

OfTel is considering several options, which include allowing British Telecom to install main telephone wiring but opening up the extension market to competition.

There are four million homes which have not been wired for a telephone, but there is a growing market for extensions.

Another option is to restrict competition to a number of qualified and licensed suppliers, ensuring that telephones are properly connected to the British Telecom network.

Thief caught by £700 in small change

The £700 in one and two pence pieces that a man stole weighed so heavy that the exhaust of his getaway car collapsed.

Police arrested Timothy Gardner, aged 21, member of Marine Road, Bessing, Abergale, when he had to stop for repairs.

Magistrates in Abergale, North Wales, were told yesterday that Gardner had stolen the money from a local amuseusement arcade to pay for the upkeep of his car.

Mr Gwyn Davies, for Gardner, described it as an "unprofessional and ridiculous burglary".

Sentence was adjourned for a fortnight and Gardner, who admitted burglary and theft, was allowed bail.

Secretary's spending spree ends in jail

A private secretary spent £34,000 which she had stolen from her boss's expense account, court was told yesterday.

Jacqueline Donald-Edmunds, aged 29, "spent and spent" on her home and family, Mr Stephen Solley, for the defence, told the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

She paid £5,000 for a fitted kitchen at her home in Clarence Road, Bickley, Kent, thousands more on carpets and bought "hundreds" of clothes for her two children, aged three and aged six months.

Donald-Edmunds, whose business is unemployed, felt that providing "little luxuries" — including a jeep — for her family would compensate for

being at work all day, Mr Solley added.

Mr John Reekers, for the prosecution, said Donald-Edmunds worked at the City office of the Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, earning £10,000 a year as a secretary.

Her boss travelled widely and she filled his expenses, pocketing £34,000 in 11 months.

Donald-Edmunds, who admitted 27 offences of theft, was jailed for 15 months. Judge Robert Lyburny, QC, told her: "People should not have the idea that simply because an offender is a young woman with children they can get away with crimes like this."



The Archbishop of Canterbury with the striking triple cross on a new altar marking the spot where Archbishop Thomas Becket was murdered on December 29 1170. Dr Runcie is to re-hallow the martyrdom in the north-west transept at evensong tomorrow.

Girl killer to be detained for life

A girl aged 16 who took "horrible revenge" and killed a middle-aged man she believed had raped her, was ordered yesterday to be detained for life.

The girl left the Central Criminal Court in London clutching two teddy bears after being described as "a great danger to the public".

She poisoned her victim, forcing him to swallow 40 drug tablets, battered him with a wooden mallet as he lay unconscious and then left him dying in his blazing flat.

Judge Robert Lyburny QC said that the girl, whom he ordered should not be identified, was suffering from a severe psychopathic disorder. Doctors forecast that she would remain a threat to the public "for some considerable time".

It would be for the Home Secretary and medical authorities to decide "when, if ever, it is safe for her to be released".

Judge Lyburny said: "She is in fact a casualty of her own upbringing, deprived of all the loving, caring, and suitable attention as a child."

Last post for oldest mail man

Britain's oldest postman, Mr Sid Smith, aged 75, who delivers mail in Osea Island off the Essex coast, lost his job yesterday.

Mr Smith, of Tolleshunt D'Arcy, said: "They say I am retiring, but they are sacking me. I feel fit as a fiddle and could go on for another 10 years."

But a Post Office spokesman said Mr Smith was being retired "because we feel responsible for him and are worried he might be taken ill in an isolated spot".

For the past 20 years Mr Smith, a part-time postman, has driven half a mile over a causeway at low tide to deliver mail to 12 houses on the island, in the estuary of the river Blackwater.

He said: "I get £57 a week and provide my own van. I was promised the job for life. It means everything to me."

Mr Smith delivered the mail — and sometimes groceries and medicine as well — within four hours, when the tide came in. Once he was cut off and had to be rescued by boat.

Check on patients' drinking advised

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Hospital doctors are being advised to question patients suspected of having a drink problem as a routine part of medical assessment.

The suggestion comes after a study which showed that more than a quarter of men and women admitted as acute cases to a London hospital were found to have conditions linked with excessive drinking.

Most of the patients did not show obvious signs of alcohol-related illness, but a screening system in which patients are asked about their drinking habits could help prevent serious physical and psychological problems, it is suggested.

The results of the study are published in this month's issue of the *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*. Its editorial said: "Alcohol is an important contributory factor in a large proportion of acute admissions to hospital."

"Detailed inquiry into alcohol consumption by means either of a quantity-frequency scale, or a detailed history of the past week's drinking should be adopted as a routine part of medical assessment."

"A screening procedure of this kind is simple and inexpensive. Not only can it increase the identification of patients at risk because of their drinking, but it may also encourage physicians to give patients advice."

Although more research was necessary, such an approach held "considerable promise" for the prevention of irreversible drink-related problems.

In the study at St Charles Hospital, west London, 28 out of 104 emergency admissions were thought to have been due to alcohol consumption. Among those not showing classical symptoms, nine were found to have taken deliberate drug overdoses combined with alcohol.

Six had chest infections or complaints in which self-neglect because of alcohol was suspected of being a contributory cause. Psychological difficulties related to drinking were suspected in two others.

Sixty of the patients were men, and 44 women. Twenty eight per cent of the men and 20 per cent of the women had drunk more than the equivalent of 20 measures of spirits or 10 pints of beer in the week before being admitted to hospital.

Aids carrier acquitted in spitting case

A young mother with the Aids (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) virus was acquitted yesterday of spitting in the face of a store detective.

Rachel Townsley, aged 24, of Buckman Street, Edinburgh, a heroin addict, was found not guilty of recklessly spitting in a store detective's face in his dance, knowing that she was an Aids virus carrier and that such a condition was transmitted by body fluids.

Sheriff William Hook accepted a defence objection that a previous conviction had been disclosed during the trial contrary to the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1975.

He acquitted Townsley on the spitting charge, but sentenced her to six months in jail for stealing a purse and for other theft charges.

It was Townsley's theft of a purse that led to her being held for questioning by Mr Michael McCormachie, a store detective.

Crash man can't stop sleeping

Mr Walter Nicholl, an 18-stone inventor, became a sleeping giant after being injured in a car crash.

Every midday Mr Nicholl is beset by an overwhelming desire to sleep.

Mr Nicholl's sleeping sickness — known as "sleep apnoea" — is so regular that, when he came to give evidence in his High Court claim for damages, he had to leave the witness box at midday and resume the next morning. Yesterday, a judge awarded £29,807 damages to Mr Nicholl, aged 61, whose firm designed innovative car silencers.

But Mr Justice Turner held that Mr Nicholl would probably have developed the affliction and that his crash injuries brought the condition forward by three years.

Mrs Willa Nicholl told the judge that her 6ft 1in husband had been a "dynamic man" before the accident, but was now frustrated by having to sleep after lunch.

Because Mr Nicholl, of Beech House, Kington, Lincolnshire, refused an out-of-court offer of £125,000, he was ordered to pay the estimated £30,000 legal costs since the offer was made in February.

The award was made against two drivers involved in the collision in 1978.

Severe gales and cold destroy early crops

Horticultural growers have suffered thousands of pounds worth of damage from this week's severe gales. They are among the more notable victims of a winter that has taken its toll of the farming industry and which has destroyed or retarded crops.

Glasshouse owners and employees in the Vale of Evesham were unable to work throughout Monday because of the danger from flying glass. A National Farmers' Union official said it was too early to assess the full extent of the damage but claims were streaming in.

Elsewhere, fruit, vegetables and arable crops have been affected by the bitterly cold weather last month. The sub-zero winds shrivelled the plants in the frozen soil.

Many fields have been flooded by heavy rain. Planting of early potatoes in Cornwall has been hampered.

The British Farm Produce Council said yesterday that spring cabbage, greens and cauliflowers were all likely to be scarce over Easter.

Computer tests for RAF entry

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

The 8,000 young hopefuls every year who have ambitions to fly with the RAF will have their aptitude tested by computer, instead of the pencil and paper examinations used by their predecessors.

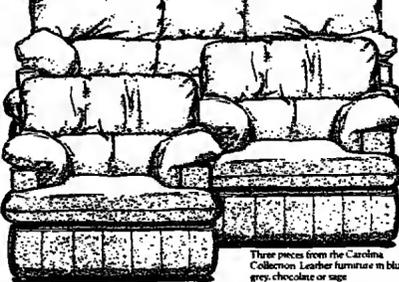
The computer tests will also assess characteristics in applicants which might have taken years to determine.

The RAF has developed the tests to be run at the Officers and Aircrew Selection Centre at Biggin Hill, Kent. The tests are able to measure the responses of a candidate by the speed with which a question is tackled, gauge the ease by which he learns and how good is his memory.

The computer aptitude tests, now 11 but soon to be expanded to 24, can determine an applicant's potential to master the controls of a jet, operate the electronics, manage air traffic, interpret radar pictures and give the correct orders if co-ordinating a battle.

The RAF said the tests have generated interest overseas, particularly within Nato.

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Geoffrey Smith talks to the Prime Minister about her past record and her future plans

'Where we are going from here'

In one of the most remarkable and wide-ranging interviews of her premiership, Mrs Margaret Thatcher discusses some of the areas in which Conservative governments, present and future, can push forward: education - freer choice, labour relations - new responsibilities for both sides, "popular capitalism" - new share-owning opportunities for more people, disarmament - new realities. "We have not," she says firmly, "lost our sense of direction."

Geoffrey Smith: An impression has been created, after the Westland episode, that the Government has become either accident-prone or has lost its sense of direction and momentum. Can I ask you about one or two of these episodes in turn? First of all, the future of British Leyland.

Prime Minister: The Government has not lost its strength, has not lost its direction, has not lost its momentum, and you had only to take one look at the Budget to know that inflation is coming down, we are bringing direct taxation down, we are privatizing more, we are in fact getting popular capitalism - all of that. We are very active in foreign fields, in foreign affairs. We have in fact kept our defences up. We have in fact added and allocated a great deal more to law and order and we are getting people involved more and more through neighbourhood watches. We are active as ever in Europe. We have lived up to our priority on putting more into the health service.

So we have not lost our sense of direction or momentum of intention and we are going on in precisely the same way. So that is that one. Now what was the question which did not depend upon that at all?

First of all, do we assume now that any possibility of General Motors buying British Leyland is now dead, and if that is so, is this not a case of the Government actually being pushed off course by its own back-benchers?

It is still the Government's intention to privatize British Leyland. May I make that perfectly clear. And everything that I have been through the last few weeks about British Leyland reinforces my view that governments ought not to be involved in this kind of decision or of this kind of negotiation.

Nevertheless, when the negotiations with General Motors became public - and it is very difficult to do commercial negotiations in the full glare of publicity - there was a very sharp reaction. Reactions of that kind are something which I think you cannot ignore. There was a very sharp reaction about one particular part. As you know, we were very anxious to try also to consider not only Land Rover, Range Rover, but also the position with regard to the production of lorries and trucks. There is enormous overproduction in this country and in Europe. Sooner or later, that business will have to be rationalized.

We took steps in what we thought would be a very good rationalization, but it became painfully clear that General Motors would not go ahead with the lorry and truck rationalization unless they also had Land Rover and Range Rover. The negotiations with General Motors were not successful because they were not prepared to rationalize the lorries and trucks unless they had Land Rover and Range Rover and feeling is running very strong.

But the British Leyland Board has surely indicated that the complete deal with General Motors would actually have been the best? Do you think that is correct?

Yes, I think that their view on a commercial basis was a view they held totally and they did not have to be influenced by other factors as we have to be influenced by other factors, and the statement they put

out indicated that they were sorry that the General Motors' offer had not been accepted in its entirety by the principal shareholder which, of course, is the Government. That was their view on a commercial basis. When Government, on behalf of the people, owns these shares, we have to take other factors into account as well, but we cannot wholly ignore a commercial basis. That is why we tried for a long time to find a compromise. Now, the only other factor which I should perhaps mention is that, as you know, Mr Graham Day is going to take up the chairmanship fairly soon, I think in a few weeks, and it may be that the British Leyland Board, in reaching its decision, will also wish to involve him, because after all, he is going to be the person who is going to be chairman of the company and will be charged with the duty of finding the best way ahead.

Now can I move on to Ireland. Do you think that the Glenholmes affair is going to make it more difficult to secure a satisfactory arrangement in Northern Ireland?

What has happened is of enormous concern to us all and when something like this suddenly bursts on the world, again feelings run very high and there is a temptation to say things of a kind which you cannot really mean because you know full well that what we have arranged long-term is the best way ahead if we can bring it about.

And what I am saying is that when these things happen, we feel just the same way as most other people about them but, equally, we have to say: "Well now, look! Keep calm. Don't dash into anything which may put the long-term objectives in jeopardy". And that I still say.

"We must not let the strong feelings run away with us on this particular thing, because the Anglo-Irish Accord is, in my opinion, the best way.

How far are you now planning for a third term? A lot of the work that we are doing now will be for legislation when we return. For example, we call it "popular capitalism". It has only just got started.

How much further can you take it? Quite a long way. There are far more people who would like to own their own homes. The numbers of people who own shares and will be their own little bit of independence are still too few, and that can go a great deal further.

In about 25 years' time there will be quite a lot of people, who will be inheriting something, because for the first time we will have a whole generation of people who own their own homes and will be leaving them, so that they topple like a cascade down the line of the family, leaving to others not only their homes but some of their shares, some of their building society investments, some of their national savings certificates - only on a higher scale than ever before.

The overwhelming majority of people, who could never look forward to that before, will be able to say: "Look, they have got something to inherit. They have got a basis to start on!" That is popular capitalism.



When one takes this phrase "popular capitalism", one is looking at home ownership, one is looking at shares ownership.

You are looking at the levels of taxation too. There has been a rather shallow debate which has attempted to put as alternatives more public expenditure and less taxation, and it has tended to put those alternatives in the way that public expenditure is moral and leaving people more of their own money in their own pockets is not so good. Now that is absolute nonsense, total and utter nonsense.

A person in my constituency put it absolutely right to me in 1979: "Mrs Thatcher, we have got to vote for you in order to get the centre back to the middle because the centre has gone so far to the left. The government is doing far too much and not leaving us enough control over our own lives."

Governments ought not to run industries, but at the end of this Parliament, when we have got everything privatized that is now going through in legislation and if we get British Airways privatized, we will be back to the same proportion of GDP coming from the public sector as it did in Harold Macmillan's time.

Are you going to be able to put on the menu for the general election further proposals for privatization? Steel is one obvious one that will come up and then we will have to have a look at others, but we have got quite a way to go.

Are you going to have to accept that there is a hard core of the public sector that cannot be privatized and if so, what is going to be done with that? What about the railways, for example? The railways are quite difficult, but we have already done quite a lot. There are lots of subsidiaries of railways, like hotels, which

have been privatized. There is a lot of land owned by railways which can be sold off and privatized. There are a lot of things that railways do that can be privatized, their catering and so on.

You will not forget that keeping the finances of Britain on a sound, prudent, well-managed basis is what people tend to take for granted, but it is crucial.

What will be the new directions? What about rent control? We will have to free up the rent control sector. Things that are vacant and things that have never been let, which will be coming on to the market for the first time. I think we will have to take steps to free these and we would put that in our manifesto.

At the moment we have got assured tenancies as you know; those can be freed from rent control. That is where you build with approval and then you get an assured tenancy and it is rent-free. We are going a little bit further, improving assured tenancy, improving property.

This would take place after the next election rather than before? That is right. Also, I think many of us are very keen to get more improvements to council blocks so that they can be sold.

What about education? I remain extremely worried about it, particularly in the inner cities. I know that some people in the shire counties are extremely satisfied with the education that they are getting. I know that there are other people who are very concerned, even in some of those places, with a lot of political indoctrination, but what really concerns me is the inner cities and some of the things which I learned there from parents and from pupils, where undoubtedly the education is not up to the standard which most parents not only expect but are entitled to expect.

Now Keith, as you know, is

trying to do great things about having a proper curriculum for youngsters, about making certain that they do not give up subjects which might be quite critical to them in their later life. I wish to goodness we still had more direct grant schools and I will tell you why.

There are some children whom the large comprehensive schools do not suit. You go from a comparatively small primary school, where you are quite happy; the size is within your perceptions, within your consciousness, and then at a most vulnerable time in life you get catapulted into a big school and some children never settle down. But there is no choice. They cannot get to a smaller one.

Now, we have not yet decided whether we will be able to have an education credit to give parents who are unhappy more possibility of getting their child into school of their choice. It is a very, very long-term thing.

Some people are against it because they say that it would give an enormous bonus to those who send their children to independent schools. But you could deal with that by way of taxation.

Do you have any plans for further industrial relations legislation, either in this Parliament or in the next Parliament? I do not think that we shall have any more in this Parliament, but they are already looking at things for the next Parliament.

I think there are certain things about the closed shop that one needs still to consider. I still find a closed shop repugnant myself. I think that there are certain things which you need to consider about contracts between employers and trade unions being enforceable, which they are in other countries.

Compulsory postal ballots? There are arguments against them, as you know. We will have a look at them. I will not say we will not

go to them, but you have to consider the other things as well. It is not such an open and clear-cut case.

You also have to consider whether you should take the ballot for officers of trade unions further down than you have now.

Do I take it that after the election though there will be such legislation?

We expect there to be such legislation after the election. We expect there to be a new Industrial Relations Bill after the election and probably fairly soon.

If there is a hung parliament after the next election do you rule out any kind of deal with the Alliance? I do not expect the conditions to arise. I do not like coalition governments and I myself would be unlikely ever to go into one. I have seen the effect of them in Europe.

I will tell you what happens. You set out your philosophy, you set out your principles, you set out your policies, you set out your programme. And do you know what happens when you get hung parliaments or coalitions. That is not democracy. So I myself would be unlikely to go into a coalition.

I may say we should never have wrought the transformation we have in Britain under a coalition government. Never, never never. You have to be decisive to do that and there is a lot of work still to do.

After Ambassador Paul Nitze's recent travels round Western Europe, the United States is proposing to the Soviet Union the complete elimination of medium range nuclear missiles over three years. Are you happy with this global zero-zero option?

We said right at the beginning that if the Soviet Union got rid of her intermediate missiles then there would be no Cruise or Pershing, and that really is the zero-zero global option, and we are reverting to that, so it is not a new option. I do not find many people still concerned, as they were originally, about the decoupling of the United States and Europe. It is for these reasons that we keep our own independent nuclear deterrent and so does France, because we still would have something, but they are last-resort things. So we are quite happy to go along with the zero-zero global to be reached in three years.

There is room for getting down the intercontinental ballistic missiles on both sides. Both the President and Mr Gorbachev, have said that they want to see a world without nuclear weapons. I cannot see a world without nuclear weapons. Let me be practical about it. The knowledge is there to make them. So do not go too hard for that pie in the sky because, while everyone would like to see it, I do not believe it is going to come about.

How important is the Fulham by-election in immediate political terms and how well do you expect to do?

Well we can win. We can win and I think that the Budget indicates that we have not lost momentum. Every by-election is important to me, every single one, and sometimes we think we do not get our message across cogently enough. The really big things are the big strategies - the transformation that has come about in ownership, the transformation that has come about when you have your finances well and truly run properly, run on a sound footing; the certainty that inflation will be kept down.

Will the decline in unemployment come through before the next election?

I do not know. I most earnestly hope so. An increasing number of jobs are coming through and if we were not facing also the simultaneous increase in the population of working age then we should be getting on top of it.

Your other dearest wish is to bring taxation down further substantially before the Election. This will really depend on holding public expenditure down in the next round. Do you think that is going to be possible this year?

I do not know, but I hope so. I notice you wisely used the word "hold" public expenditure, because if you actually hold it, against a background of growth you have got what you want and one reason why our taxation is higher here than in some of the European countries is that we have not yet broken through to the amount of production per head of the population which they have.

When people come to me and say "Don't reduce tax", the first question I ask of them is "Do tell me, is your income in the top half?" "Yes". "Very considerably in the top half?" "Yes". And I say: "Well, I do not find many people coming to me, teachers, nurses, people who are working hard but earning below average, I don't find them coming to me and saying you are leaving too much of my own money in my pocket, Mrs Thatcher. I find them coming and saying: 'I have not got enough of my own money left in my own pocket to pay my rates, to pay my fuel bills, to pay food and clothes.' You look at the black cash economy; that shows how hard people will work when they see a direct relationship between what they earn and the effort. So yes, I do want taxation down. It is people's own money. They are entitled to have more of it and I am not so arrogant as some politicians as to think that I know better how to spend it than the people who earn it."

But you are going to have to persuade the Cabinet aren't you to hold public expenditure sufficiently?

Yes I am and I am going to say to them, I do say to them, what is moral about saying to your constituents, "I have spent your tax relief because I think I know better how to spend than you do?" So, yes, you have a reasonable level of public expenditure. We have had our priorities with defence and law and order and health and our pledge to pensions and we have honoured the lot. But we have to watch the rate at which it goes up, because if your public expenditure goes on going up as a proportion of national income, then your freedom is diminished and there was a time you know, during the lifetime of a Labour politician, when right-wing Labour politicians were saying: "If it goes on like this we shall no longer be a free society!"

Will it be easier to persuade the Cabinet to hold down public expenditure this year than in the past?

No, it will be about the same. How would you like your premiership and your Government to be regarded in history? I really think that it was the turn of the tide. We were slipping so fast into a Socialist state, where the individual mattered less and the collective more. That is not right for the British character. We turned that whole tide because people knew it had turned. As my constituent said: "We had to vote for you to get the centre back to the middle!" Are you still absolutely determined, without equivocation, to take the Conservative Party into the next Election? Yes.

PARLIAMENT MARCH 27 1986

Northern Ireland questions

Labour troubles

Unionists are urged to accept Thatcher invitation to talks

ULSTER

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said during "one-to-one" exchanges that he hoped that Mr James Moynihan and the Rev Ian Paisley, leaders of the two main Unionist parties, would accept the invitation of the Prime Minister and enter into sensible discussions about a whole range of issues of concern to the people of the province.

He pointed out that in her letter to the Unionist leaders, the Prime Minister had invited them to enter into talks without pre-conditions, to discuss their concerns and see whether progress could be made.

All sensible people will recognise (he went on) that either there will be talks or there will be much more serious consequences if this is allowed to drift on and if the present impasse is allowed to continue.

On behalf of the Government and I hope with the support of all MPs, I say there must be talks. I hope the Unionist leaders will accept the invitation from Mrs Thatcher and enter into these talks as soon as possible.

He added that in her letter the Prime Minister recognized the opposition of the Unionists

to the Anglo-Irish agreement and made it clear that any subsequent talks would be without prejudice to that opposition. The Government was prepared to talk on any or all of the issues, including those on which the agreement had no bearing.

The Government believes (he said) that it has made a helpful response to the Unionist leaders, recognizing the realities of the position and the realities of the agreement.

It would be tragic if, in the face of that offer, the Unionist leaders are not even prepared to enter into talks without pre-conditions and without prejudice to their own position. That is an offer that must be taken up and I hope they will respond to it.

Powell blames UK governments
The ultimate responsibility for whatever happens in Northern Ireland over Easter, and in the weeks and months beyond, would lie, as ever, with the ambiguities and inconsistencies of the policies of successive British Governments towards the Province and its people.

Mr Enoch Powell (Down South, OUP) declared during questions in the Commons.

Mr Stuart Bell, an Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, said it was right and proper that the Unionist leaders should take up the invitation to further talks.

There is nothing in the Anglo-Irish agreement (he said) that prevents Unionist leaders talking to the elected Government of the United Kingdom.

Earlier Mr Seamus Mallon (Newry and Armagh, SDLP) said: A sizeable section of the population in Northern Ireland is in favour of the Anglo-Irish agreement and wants to see it working. Will he consider taking the opportunity to direct some remarks to that section of the community instead of expressing his own inherent Unionism at every opportunity?

House of Commons to join with us all in believing that the right way to relieve the ambiguities and inconsistencies by discussion and consultation and that at no time can there be a case for violence and confrontation.

Mr Seamus Mallon (Newry and Armagh, SDLP) said that

Mr King: One of the consequences of the agreement was a recognition among the nationalist community of the opportunity of progress by constitutional means rather than by having to support the men of violence.

At the same time it is not in the nationalist interest to have the degree of misunderstanding and discontent that there among the Unionist community over the agreement.

I am anxious to see if those fears and misunderstandings can be relieved and the genuine concerns can be met in discussions with the Unionists on a number of aspects, such as method of consultation and involvement available to them as well.

probably one of the most serious security issues would be the marches, particularly the so-called Loyalist marches at Portadown next Monday which, with its coat-trailing exercise in triumphalism geared to exacerbate sectarian feelings and promote the type of sectarian strife seen last July.

Wedding holiday plea
A request that the Commons should not sit on July 23, the day of the Royal wedding between Prince Andrew and Miss Sarah Ferguson, was made during Commons business questions by Mr Peter Brunsell (Leicester East, C).

Labour and newspaper tycoons

THE PRESS

Criticism of the Labour Party's "hypocritical" silence about the way Mr Robert Maxwell ran his newspapers, compared to their behaviour over Mr Rupert Murdoch's business dealings, was voiced during Commons questions by two Conservative MPs.

Mr Michael Fallon (Dartington, C) asked for an early debate on industrial relations in the newspaper industry so the Labour Party could end its hypocritical silence over the way Mr Maxwell ran his newspapers.

Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House, replied: I am not sure about your hypothesis, it is definitely spasmodic.

Mr Peter Lilley (St Albans, C) said he supported Mr Fallon's request. The House should have the opportunity to consider why the Labour Party refused to have any dealings with Mr Rupert Murdoch over his move to Wapping whereas the dispute in Glasgow had led to no such action. Should we not (he said) have an opportunity to investigate whether it is because of some financial relationship between Mr Maxwell and the Labour Party?

Making capital out of Kinnock's problems

MILITANT

Conservative and Alliance backbench MPs used the opportunity of Prime Minister's question time to exploit the difficulties suffered by Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, in his so far frustrated attempts to expel Militant supporters from the Labour Party.

The first to raise the issue was Sir Hugh Rossi (Hornsey and Wood Green, C) who remarked: Having regard to recent problems about extradition, and if it is decided to make changes in the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, will the Prime Minister ensure that recruitment does not take place from amongst those who advised Mr Kinnock on expulsions from the Labour Party? (Laughter)

Mrs Thatcher: He makes his point very effectively.

Articles in *The Guardian* had, he said, contained serious allegations and if *The Guardian* had any new evidence it should be passed to the investigation.

Efforts to tighten procedures

DUBLIN CASE

Every effort would be made to ensure the effectiveness of the extradition process, Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said when questioned further about the handling of the warrant in the case of Evelyn Glenholmes, the IRA bomb suspect.

Sir Phillip Goodhart (Beckenham, C) had asked: Will he make sure there are inquiries into why no attempt was made to arrest Miss Glenholmes on a charge of being a suspected member of the IRA which is an offence within the Republic?

Mr King: There is to be a disciplinary inquiry in the office of the DPP.

Mr Jeremy Hayes (Harlow, C): The whole of the Glenholmes fiasco had nothing to do with the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

Minister defends police inquiry

HOME OFFICE

There was no question of dilatoriness or of seeking to cover up in the police inquiry into the events at the demonstration at Manchester University on March 1 last year, Mr Giles Shaw, Minister of State, Home Office, said in the Commons.

He was replying to allegations that the fact witnesses in the inquiry had been harassed, attacked and injured.

Articles in *The Guardian* had, he said, contained serious allegations and if *The Guardian* had any new evidence it should be passed to the investigation.

The complaints arose out of incidents during a visit by the then Home Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan, to the students union building.

Mr Anthony Lloyd (Surreyford, Lab) said that the inquiry by the Police Complaints Authority to date had been incompetent.

Miss Sarah Hollis, who had been injured during the

Sikh militants ransack ruling party HQ and kill moderates

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

The head office of the Akali Dal, the "immortal party" of the Sikhs which rules in Punjab state, was ransacked and its contents burned by extremists of the All India Sikh Students' Federation yesterday.

The extremists ran across the road that passes through the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar into the small square of offices where they pulled out all the party records and smashed furniture before putting everything to the torch. A few party workers in the office at the time were beaten with batons and driven off.

A portrait of Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, the moderate leader of the party assassinated by terrorists last year, was smashed by the militants who were protesting at the police shooting in Anandpur Sahib on Wednesday in which seven people died.

Police outside the Golden Temple fired a shot into the air in a bid to scare away the students, who were chanting slogans against Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, the state's Chief Minister, and in favour of Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, the martyred terrorist leader.

The trouble was eventually halted by Mr Gurdev Singh, who was put in charge of the temple by the extremists when they seized control of the complex at the end of January.

Yesterday a series of assassinations of non-extreme Sikh leaders continued with the gunning down of Arjun Singh Mastana, a former legislator of the Communist Party of India. He and his bodyguard died when three terrorists, two in police uniform, rode into his village on a motorcycle in the early hours of the morning.

Yesterday's incidents added to the total of death and destruction which is likely to make this week the worst week of terrorism since the Akali

Dal came to power in elections last year. The elections followed a pact between Sant Longowal and the Government of Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

Since then the Akali Dal Government under Mr Surjit Singh has attempted to carry out a programme of reconciliation with the militants. Several hundred extremists have been released from jail where they were detained under the draconian National Security Act. Army mutineers discharged after the mass desecrations following Operation Blue Star, the military seizure of the Golden Temple, have been given grants for land and resettlement.

The extremists, far from being mollified by this treatment, in fact have been encouraged by it and by the Barnala Government's failure to move decisively against them.

This failure was most strikingly shown following the January capture of the temple by the militants, who expelled the high priests appointed by the officially-elected Temple Management Committee, and began the destruction of the Akal Takht — the seat of immortal power — which had been badly damaged in Operation Blue Star and rebuilt under Government direction.

Then, Mr Surjit Singh and his Government had called a general meeting of all baptized Sikhs and apparently intended to evict the militants by force of numbers. But the confrontation was called off and the meeting held instead at Anandpur thus leaving the militants in undisputed control of the temple.

The apparent failure of the Gandhi-Longowal accord to yield anything tangible to the Sikhs has been held against the Barnala Government.

The Punjab Cabinet was yesterday reported to be considering matters in an emergency session.



A masked Chilean student throwing a stone at police during an angry demonstration in Santiago against the government of General Pinochet. Hundreds of students were demanding secure conditions in which to study.

In a separate incident, a mother and her small daughter suffered burns when a bus was set alight by a firebomb (AFP reports). Police said it was the eighth such attack on a public transport vehicle within 48 hours. The attackers escaped.

The EEC food mountains Soviet bloc picks up a £1 bn bargain

From Richard Owen, Brussels

The EEC last year sold more than seven million tonnes of cereals in Russia for \$785 million, as well as 162,000 tonnes of butter to a value of \$137 million, both at knock-down prices.

Libya received 461,000 tonnes of EEC grain and 54,000 tonnes of skimmed milk also at subsidized rates.

The main Soviet bloc importers of EEC foodstuffs — Russia, Poland, Bulgaria and East Germany — did bargain basement business with Brussels to the tune of more than \$1 billion with Libya and other North African states — Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt — close behind with more than \$800 million worth.

But even these large-scale cost-price deals have barely dented the EEC food mountains, and the failure of EEC farm ministers this week to agree on a policy for disposal of the surpluses leaves the Commission keen to conclude further deals, including a sale of 100,000 tonnes of butter to Moscow through M Jean Baptiste Domeneq, the French Communist trader. The secret subsidy in this deal is said to be as much as three-quarters of the official intervention price.

EEC officials deny that the Commission is negotiating "secret deals" to sell off intervention stocks. But trade experts say that those exporters who specialize in sales to "sensitive" countries have been quietly told of EEC export subsidy offers under a discreet tender system.

MILK POWDER		BEEF		BUTTER		CEREALS		WINE	
0.6 million tonnes	0.7 million tonnes	1.1 million tonnes	15.3 million tonnes	3.5 billion litres	EEC FOOD SURPLUSES Figure at end of February 1986				
Total value at intervention stocks: £5.7 billion Storage costs: £360 million plus interest at £470 million									

The EEC argues that surpluses would be as much as 40 per cent higher but for sales to the Soviet Union. Libya and other controversial destinations. Brussels is also seeking markets in India and Pakistan.

Figures obtained by *The Times* show that the biggest importers of EEC cereals are the Soviet Union (seven million tonnes), Saudi Arabia (1.5

million), Morocco (1.5 million) and Algeria (1.3 million). Russia also imported the most EEC butter (162,000 tonnes), with Egypt some way behind (28,000, part in food aid).

The Russians and their allies paid only £112 per tonne for cereal imports from Europe, minus an export subsidy of £30-40. Similarly, Moscow paid 38p per lb for EEC butter compared to more than £1 per

lb in the West. Nearly all of Libya's 9,000 tonnes of butter a year comes from the EEC.

EEC officials point out that grain sold to the Eastern bloc, Africa and the Middle East is inferior in quality, and that the butter involved is rancid or near-rancid.

Mr Bryan Cassidy, European for Dorset East and Hampshire West (Conservative), complained this week that the British Government was failing to promote a new EEC scheme for the sale of cost-price concentrated butter in Britain.

Mr Terry Pitt, Labour MEP for West Midlands, said low price sales of 750,000 tonnes of beef to non-EEC countries last year had cost more than £500 million in subsidies, with a further £320 million going on beef storage costs.

The Community also disposed of thousands of tonnes of grain as food aid last year, including more than 116,000 tonnes to Ethiopia.

EEC FOOD EXPORTS TO NON-EEC COUNTRIES

COUNTRY	Totals in £ million			Volume per thousand tonnes			MILK
	CEREALS	MEAT	BUTTER	CEREALS	MEAT	BUTTER	
ALGERIA	147.0	23.7	12.4	133.8	1327	20	12
BULGARIA	84.7	0.5	2.4	700	1	—	10
EGERMANY	30.5	1.9	—	297	1	—	—
EGYPT	0.7	136.8	44.0	24.0	3	159	28
INDIA	0.3	—	18.2	23.0	—	—	27
IRAN	10.5	34.5	11.0	11.8	105	30	9
IRAQ	—	41.8	—	65.4	—	36	51
JAPAN	1.0	248.0	1.8	10.8	491	91	15
LIBYA	55.8	15.8	11.7	38.3	491	14	7
MOROCCO	168.0	2.9	—	9.5	1576	4	54
POLAND	100.0	5.4	—	—	921	9	—
SAUDI ARABIA	149.2	111.0	24.7	100.0	1554	133	94
SOVIET UNION	785.0	48.6	137.0	5.0	7330	86	162
SYRIA	22.7	—	25.3	13.5	184	—	18
TUNISIA	46.6	11.8	—	10.5	433	12	14
USA	—	97.8	—	3.3	64	—	—

* Based on commercial rate of 65p to the European Currency Unit. Figures below 1,000 tonnes excluded. Jan 85 to Dec 85 figures for EEC of UK; Spain and Portugal not included. Source: Eurostat-Comext

France to destroy lethal wine

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

France has ordered the destruction of more than one million litres of cheap Italian wine being held at the Mediterranean port of Sète.

The 1,160,000 litres has been declared unfit for consumption due to its high level of methyl alcohol — up to 10 times the permitted amount. A total of 2,800,000 litres of red wine, originally from Puglia in southern Italy, has been blocked for analysis in Sète where it arrived by sea.

There have been general alerts in France, Germany and Belgium after the adulterated wine scandal in Italy which, it is alleged, has so far claimed eight lives.

Some wine producers in southern Italy have already been interrogated by police, and the Italian Minister of Agriculture, concerned about the image of Italian wine abroad, has stated that no-one should buy a bottle of wine that is cheaper than a bottle of mineral water.

MILAN: Officials seized a wine grower's stock at Apulia in southern Italy, which is believed may have poisoned some people here this month, the Ansa news agency said (Reuter reports).

Police believe that the grower may be the unregistered supplier of a distribution firm in the northern city of Cuneo that authorities tentatively pinpointed as the source of the poisoned wine.

STUTTGART: Health inspectors said yesterday that 1,620 one-and-a-half litre bottles of 1984 Barbera d'Asi Pignone containing a dangerously high level of 6.7 grams of methyl alcohol a litre had been found in an import warehouse near Karlsruhe (Reuter reports).

LONDON: A Department of Health spokesman said yesterday that there was no reason to suppose that any contaminated wine had been exported to Britain (Robin Young writes).

Astronauts remains identified

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The remains of at least four of the seven astronauts who were killed in the Shuttle Challenger explosion on January 28 have been identified, relatives and NASA space agency sources said.

Family members said earlier this week that they had been told by NASA that partial body identifications had been made by military pathologists.

"They have made some identifications but they are being very cautious," said a member of the family of astronaut Ronald McNair.

Mrs June Scoobe, widow of the Challenger commander, Dick Scoobe, was reported as saying that she was planning a burial at Arlington National Cemetery, near Washington.

Choppy seas and strong winds kept the shuttle salvage fleet in port on Wednesday, preventing divers from completing the recovery of sunken wreckage of Challenger's crew cabin, which is thought to contain more remains of the astronauts.

NASA has said it will not comment publicly on the crew cabin salvage operation and the examination of astronauts' remains until the task is completed. This will take another two or three weeks, according to the agency.

Meanwhile, NASA officials are urging the construction of the new shuttle, Orbiter, at a cost of \$2.8 billion (£1.9 billion), and a build-up to 10 unmanned rockets to meet national security needs.

Mr William Graham, acting NASA Administrator, said that the space agency might launch the next shuttle in 12 to 18 months, unless more critical flaws were found. "We will not go back to space flight until we are confident we have addressed all the safety issues."

He also said that work continued on a permanent space station targeted for 1994.

Meese backs Pakistan

Islamabad (Reuter) — The US Attorney General, Mr Edwin Meese, has expressed satisfaction with Pakistan's attitude to fighting drug trafficking to the West.

Mr Meese was speaking after a two-day visit designed to underline US support both for Pakistan's opposition to the Soviet military presence in Afghanistan and for its fight against drugs.

In a speech yesterday to Afghan refugees, Mr Meese reaffirmed US support for guerrillas fighting the Soviet-backed Afghan Government.

He said the main purpose of his visit was to discuss drug control, for which Washington is funding a crop substitution programme to end the cultivation of opium poppies in Pakistan's North-West Frontier province.

A State Department study last month said Afghanistan and bordering areas of Pakistan were the world's leading source of heroin.

PESHAWAR: A bomb exploded in a restaurant here frequented by Afghan refugees, killing at least four people and wounding 17.

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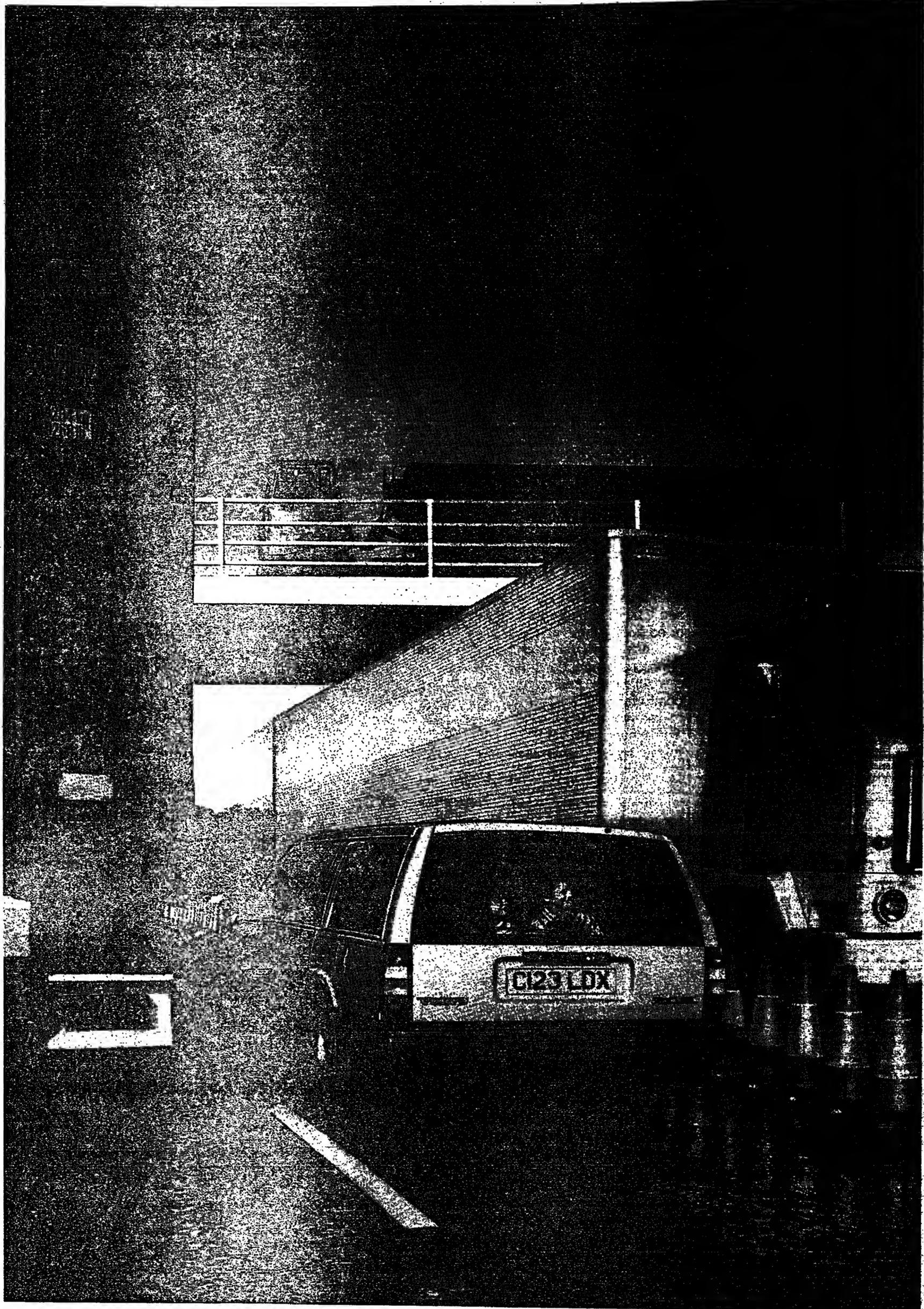
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Israelis bomb Lebanon guerrilla bases after PLO attack on border

From Our Correspondent, Sidon

In a swift reaction to a rocket attack against an Israeli border town, Israeli jets yesterday bombed Palestinian guerrilla bases in southern Lebanon, killing ten people and wounding 22.

The raid was a warning to Palestinians, who have been building up forces in the area, to expect similar retaliation if the cross-border attacks persist. But far from having a deterrent effect, the raid provoked vows to continue the Palestinian struggle.

The rocket attack was claimed by the mainstream Fatah group of Mr Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation



Map showing the border area between Lebanon and Israel, with Sidon and Kiryat Shmona marked.

Organization. Mr Badi Abu-Suleiman, an Arafat loyalist, claimed that his guerrillas launched four Katyusha rockets into Israeli territory, and warned that the ensuing air raid would only strengthen

our struggle against the enemy. We shall retaliate in a violent way... inside occupied land.

The mid-morning raid was launched less than two hours after a guerrilla rocket fired from south Lebanon hit a schoolyard in Kiryat Shmona.

The Israeli jets came in from the clear Mediterranean sky west of Sidon for a five-minute attack. Witnesses said the jets made two bombing runs. In their second pass, they said, rockets and bombs wounded several civilians who were trying to rescue casualties.

In a gesture that was more symbolic than effective, given the military sophistication of the Israelis, the guerrillas fired anti-aircraft guns and anti-aircraft missiles when the jets swooped on the Ein Helweh and Miaou-Mia Palestinian refugee camps and the nearby hilltop village of Sirubeh.

A one-storey building believed to be a Fatah headquarters near Miaou-Mia took direct hits and was badly damaged by the rockets. Hours after the raid, edgy Palestinian guerrillas scrambled among the debris in search of victims and equipment.

A bomb landed on a wide street on the outskirts of the Ein Helweh camp, ripping off chunks of the facade of a five-storey building and gouging a huge, eight-yard deep crater. A young Palestinian on the brink of tears stood near the hole and, turning to a Swedish radio reporter, said in broken English: "Remember, one day we will not forget any Israeli, neither man, neither woman, anybody, remember."

But he was told to shut up and was taken away. Police said seven civilians, including Lebanese, were killed in the bomb blast, about 100 yards from a Fatah office.

Mr Papandreou, who offered the American official lunch after talks lasting 90 minutes, said in a toast: "Truly these two days were very productive. I sincerely believe that they constitute a big step forward in the development of our relations in all sectors."

The US Government wants to know soon whether its military presence in Greece can be extended into the next decade, in exchange for assistance in meeting Mr Papandreou's growing economic and defence concerns.

Mr Papandreou insists that he prefers to deal with this problem nearer the expiry date, mainly so as not to alienate left-wing opinion which his government needs in a year of municipal elections.

Mr Shultz was given an idea of the vigour with which the Greek left opposes the presence of the bases, after demonstrations in Athens and other cities on Wednesday developed into violent clashes between police and extremists.

Rocket slams into school playground

From David Bernstein, Jerusalem

Four Israelis, three children and a teacher, were slightly injured yesterday when a Katyusha rocket fired from southern Lebanon exploded in the playground of a school in Kiryat Shmona.

They were the first casualties of several such attacks on northern Israel since the Israeli Army withdrew from a most of southern Lebanon a year ago.

The officer commanding Israel's northern front, Major-General Ori Orr, appeared to rule out speculation that the air strike which followed on Palestinian guerrilla targets near Sidon may have been in direct retaliation for the attack.

Visiting the town after the attack, he said that it had yet to be established which of the several hostile groups operating in Lebanon had been responsible.

It has, nevertheless, become routine Israeli practice to respond to such attacks by striking at selected guerrilla targets in Lebanon.

Israeli military analysts have claimed that some 1,000 Palestinian guerrillas, most of them belonging to the Fatah wing of the PLO, have re-established themselves in the refugee camps around Sidon in the year since the Israeli withdrawal.

Yesterday's rocket attack on Kiryat Shmona, which is believed to have originated in the village of Shakra, well to the south of Sidon, could have been used simply as a pretext to strike at this build-up.

The Israeli Army spokesman reported "good hits" on the targets attacked, and claimed that all Israeli aircraft had returned safely to base.

The four Israelis hurt in the rocket attack were briefly kept in hospital for treatment, and all were later sent home. Within hours of the attack, life in the town was said to be back to normal.

Shultz seeks bases decision

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, was due to end his three-day stay in Athens today with a largely symbolic visit to the American Air Force base adjacent to Athens airport, before flying to Rome.

The fate of this and three other US military installations in this country once the current bases agreement expires in 1988, was a key issue in Mr Shultz's discussions with Mr Andreas Papandreou, the Greek Prime Minister, yesterday.

Mr Papandreou insisted that he prefers to deal with this problem nearer the expiry date, mainly so as not to alienate left-wing opinion which his government needs in a year of municipal elections.

Mr Shultz was given an idea of the vigour with which the Greek left opposes the presence of the bases, after demonstrations in Athens and other cities on Wednesday developed into violent clashes between police and extremists.

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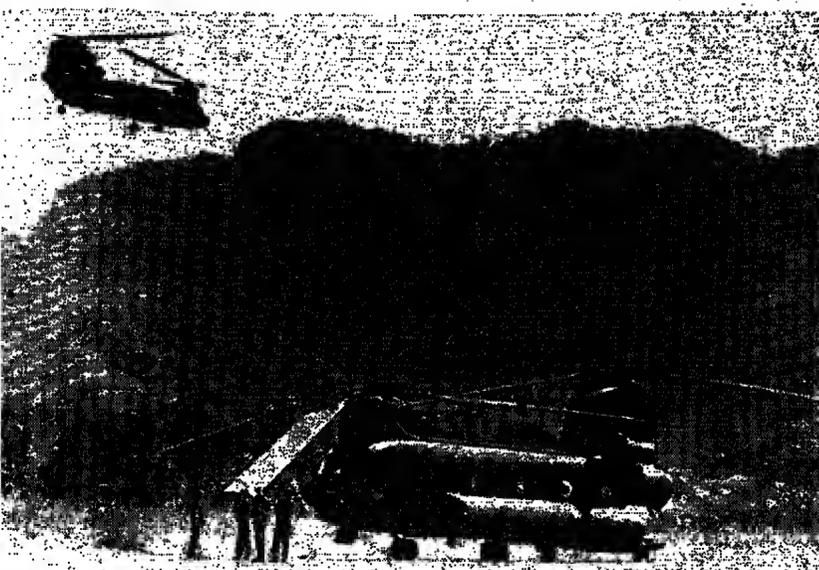
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Honduran support troops being airlifted by United States helicopters to Janasraas, an area close to the Nicaraguan border.

Reagan says lost aid vote was signal to strike

Washington - President Reagan, confident of having \$100 million in aid to the Contras approved in the Senate last night, still looks stymied in the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives (Christopher Thomas writes).

Mr Reagan yesterday said the Nicaraguan "offensive" against rebels based in Honduras, was "a slap in the face" to Congressmen who last week rejected his aid plan. "The Nicaraguan communists took the House vote as a sign. They

invaded..." he said. In mid-April the Democrats will produce their own version of an aid package. It falls far short of the substantial unconditional assistance sought by Mr Reagan.

Blacks die in police ambush

From Michael Hornsby Johannesburg

The death toll in widespread unrest in South Africa in the 24 hours to midnight on Wednesday, rose to 30 yesterday with the news that police killed two blacks in an ambush laid for stone-throwers in the Crossroads squatter camp outside Cape Town on Wednesday night.

Meanwhile, Mr Louis le Grange, the Minister of Law and Order, extended for another year bans on all gatherings called to promote school boycotts.

Police in the tribal homeland of Bophuthatswana confirmed that they killed 11 blacks on Wednesday when they opened fire on a large crowd, gathered on a football ground in the Witwatersrand shanty town, which allegedly ignored an order to disperse.

Dr Lucas Mangope, the leader of Bophuthatswana, yesterday appointed a judge to hold an inquiry.

Witwatersrand residents claim that as many as 20 people were killed. They said that police later detained scores of wounded on the football pitch and for more than an hour kicked and beat them with rifle butts and sjamboks.

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Nicaragua troops 'trapped' by Contras

Tegucigalpa, Honduras (AP) - Rebels fighting the Nicaraguan Government say they have surrounded 1,500 Sandinista troops in southern Honduras and will not let them escape back across the border.

Meanwhile, US military helicopters with American crews ferried about 600 Honduran soldiers to the southern border area to join another 3,000 troops already there. A US Embassy official said no further flights were contemplated.

Honduran military intelligence sources said that 200 Sandinistas have been killed and another 150 wounded since the fighting broke out on Saturday between the Nicaraguan troops and the Contras.

One military source said that "very important things could happen in favour of the Contras and harmful to the invading army." He did not elaborate.

Mr Frank Arana, a spokesman for the largest Contra group, claimed: "The invaders are not going to return to Nicaragua. Our troops have them surrounded."

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Moscow's barrage at the UN

From Zoriana Pysariwsky New York

The Soviet Union opened the debate in the United Nations Security Council on the Libyan-American confrontation in the Gulf of Sirte, accusing the United States of state terrorism against Libya that threatened the stability of the entire Mediterranean region.

Calling the US retaliatory strikes against Libya "pre-meditated bandit attacks", Mr Yuri Dubinin, the Soviet representative, urged the Security Council to condemn the US and adopt measures that would protect Libya's territorial integrity. He said that both Libya and Nicaragua had borne the brunt of American imperialist policies.

The Security Council convened at the request of Malta and the Soviet Union, which said that the US was planning further strikes against Libya.

Although the statement by Malta lacked the vehemence that set the tone of the Soviet opening remarks, Mr George Agius, the Maltese representative, made clear that his Government attached most of the blame for the hostilities to the United States.

General Vernon Walters, the American representative, told the Security Council that the US response to Libya's hostile actions was measured and appropriate. By entering the Gulf of Sirte, the United States was defending freedom of navigation for all nations.

Aftermath of the Gulf of Sirte clash Russians explain inability to help in naval skirmish

From Robert Fisk, Tripoli, Libya

Libyan - not Soviet - military personnel fired the Sam 5 anti-aircraft missiles at American jets over the Gulf of Sirte this week and the Russians were yesterday explaining why they could not help Libya when the US Sixth Fleet attacked its patrol boats.

Soviet officials in Tripoli are arguing that one benefit of the whole affair is an increase in Colonel Gaddafi's domestic popularity but they are painfully aware of their own inability to protect the Libyans militarily.

"What did you expect us to do?" a Soviet official asked me yesterday. "To strike American ships? Do you know what would happen then? We have to hope that the Americans will study the situation carefully, that there will be a peaceful solution to this problem."

In Tripoli, the Russians are fully endorsing Colonel Gaddafi's contention that the Gulf of Sirte is Libyan territorial water, but on grounds of precedent rather than international law. "The Gulf of Sirte is not an international sea lane," the Soviet official said. "There are in the world several gulfs considered by nations to be their internal territorial waters - the Hudson Gulf (sic), the Gulf of Mexico, the Gulf of Riga, Sirte...the Americans accused Libya of this happening (sic) that took place in the airports at Rome and Vienna. They have no evidence about Libya and this. And the Sixth Fleet came here

and the Libyan regular armed forces - must now feel after the engagements in the Gulf of Sirte this week. As one Western diplomat put it yesterday: "They took a bloody nose."

Ironically, the Libyan patrol boats attacked by the Americans are believed to have been equipped with British navigation and radar equipment. In fact, British companies have been helping the Libyans to renovate their military radar systems - despite Mrs Thatcher's support for American policy over Libya and

despite the continued detention of a British engineer from Plessey, Mr James Abra, who is on trial in Tripoli on charges of passing secret radar defence information to London.

Nor is Colonel Gaddafi as universally popular in Libya as the Russians claim, although Western as well as East Bloc diplomats agree that his personal stature has been immeasurably increased by the confrontation.

A rumour is circulating among embassies here of another assassination attempt against him, while recent governmental changes mean that internal security has been reorganized to concentrate more power among Colonel Gaddafi's closest advisers.

In a sudden decision, officially taken at the request of the "General People's Congress", nine of the 20 principal government ministries have disappeared, to be amalgamated with other departments. Among these are the oil, information and justice ministries. The latter's demise means that, in future, the Libyan security police will be immediately responsible to the Colonel's deputy, Abdul-Salam Jalloud. His own position has thus become far more powerful although he has stated publicly that "Colonel Gaddafi does not have a successor". Indeed, the Colonel is being remorselessly built up in the Libyan media as a near-deity. America's military operation in the Gulf of Sirte can only have helped.

He said Soviet activity in the region was normal. Both US and Soviet ships regularly ply the waters of the southern Mediterranean, monitoring movements.

Asked about the attacks, the admiral said: "We did nothing to provoke an action. We were not going to permit them to attack our forces."

Admiral Kelson went on: "The (Libyan) missiles were fired. They were seen on radar. There was no question that they were fired."

Admiral Kelson said that during the exercises no US ship had gone closer than 60 miles north of the 13-mile limit.

On Monday, the American forces struck at the Libyans after six Soviet-made anti-

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FIAT REGATA 85 SUPER—£6539	PEUGEOT 405—£6734	PEUGEOT 405—£6734
VAUXHALL CAVALIER 1.6—£6362		
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AUSTIN MONTEGO 2.0 HL—£7899		
FIAT REGATA 85 SUPER—£6539		
VAUXHALL CAVALIER 1.6—£6362		
SEAT MALAGA 1500 GLX—£6293		
VOLKSWAGEN JETTA TX—£6568		
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VAUXHALL CAVALIER 1.3—£6015		
ALFA ROMEO GIULIETTA 1.6—£7350		

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April 1986

Melbourne bombing injures 21 and shakes Australian nerve

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

A car packed with gelignite blew up without warning in the centre of Melbourne yesterday, injuring 21 people and leaving the residents of Australia's second city shocked and stunned. They frequently read about this kind of outrage but have never before experienced it.

A policewoman was in a critical condition last night and another police officer was said to be seriously injured. Officials, however, said it was only by good fortune that there had not been large-scale loss of life.

The sedate commercial capital was starting to close down for the Easter weekend when the bomb went off just after 1pm. The stolen car disintegrated outside police headquarters, destroying a police car nearby and triggering a series of petrol tank explosions in other parked vehicles. The indiscriminate attack confused police who said they had no clear idea who might be responsible.

The police building and the adjacent Melbourne Magistrate's Court took the main force of the blast which scattered debris for up to 200 yards. A number of other central buildings suffered external damage.

Police established a task force of 20 detectives from the homicide, arson and main crime squads, but in response to a wave of feverish speculation as to who was responsible, a spokesman said: "We have no positive leads."

Among the plethora of theories was a suggestion that the bomb might have been the work of foreign terrorists but, by the nature of the target, that seemed unlikely.

Police made it clear they did not see a political motive and were more inclined to believe

that the police station, or even the magistrate's court, was the target.

A spokesman said: "We have had individual vendettas against police, but this kind of indiscriminate attack on the public is something we haven't seen in Australia before."

The only comparable outrage occurred in 1979 when a bomb exploded in a Sydney hotel during a Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting, killing three people.

Mr John Cain, Premier of Victoria, described the bombing as "a barbaric act of criminal violence."

"We have been free of this sort of thing - we have read about it and abhorred it in other parts of the world. One can only be very concerned as to what the future holds."

Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, was said to have been deeply disturbed by the attack. Meanwhile, there is an over-riding sense of dismay among Australians that such a thing could happen in their own country.

Deputy Police Commissioner Keith Thompson confirmed there had been no warning before the blast. He said it was fortunate there were not more people in the area at the time. Many could have been killed, he added.

A solicitor who was in the court building at the time said there was total confusion for some minutes before police started herding magistrates and others out of the back of the complex.

The scene at the police building was one of devastation. Every window on the first five floors of the 11-storey block was shattered. A policewoman said broken glass lay deep on the floor while flying shards had shredded pot plants.



A policewoman covered with blood after the bomb attack

Subpoena served on former President

Honolulu (AP) - A subpoena has been served on former President Marcos of the Philippines at his beach-side home ordering him to give a deposition in connection with a double killing.

The subpoena was turned over to Secret Service agents by Mr Dean Alegado, a spokesman for the Committee for Justice for Domingo and Viveses, based in Seattle, Washington. Silme Domingo and Gene Viveses were anti-Marcos trade union activists who were murdered on June 1, 1981, in Seattle.

Mr Marcos's testimony was sought in connection with a 1982 lawsuit alleging that he and his top military aide, General Fabian Ver, were responsible for the murders.

The subpoena, issued last Friday by the US District Court, required Mr Marcos to bring with him to the April 15 deposition any documents in his possession relating to the murders of Domingo and Viveses, Mr Alegado said.

It also required Mr Marcos to bring documents related to the use of Philippine National Intelligence and Security Agency agents who allegedly monitored the actions of anti-Marcos movement members in the United States, he said.

Widening scandal over Marcos family dealing Japan looks into land sales

From David Watts, Tokyo

The Japanese Government has agreed to set up a special committee to investigate former President Marcos's dealings with Japan. The agreement was sealed yesterday at a meeting of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the Opposition.

As the LDP agreed to the first such investigation since the Lockheed bribery scandal of the mid-1970s, the Opposition revealed what it said were attempts by the Marcos family to sell parcels of Philippines Government-owned land in Tokyo.

Mr Kazunori Inoue of the Socialist Party showed a Lower House committee documents which he said were a sales agreement between a Marcos agent, Mr Victor Nituda, and a Japanese company for the sale of three parcels of land worth 9.6 billion yen (£36 million). The sale was said to have been arranged through a small trading company which normally

deals in ships for Malaysia. The president of the firm was not in Tokyo.

According to documents presented by the Socialists, agreement for the sale was reached in January and was to have gone through as soon as Mr Marcos approved the details. That appears never to have happened.

This is the most embarrassing allegation yet for the Japanese Government since the documents appeared to indicate that transfer of the property ownership should be done from the Philippines Foreign Ministry to its Japanese counterpart.

The Government had been doing its best to avoid opposition demands for an investigation of Marcos links, but has had to yield to demands that overseas aid be investigated against a background of allegations that Japanese firms routinely paid commissions of 15 per cent on contracts in the Philippines. Much aid was

tied to contracts with Japanese firms. Such commissions are not normally illegal.

NEW YORK: The New York Times said yesterday it had obtained documents from Philippines Government sources which showed that Mr Marcos and his wife began accumulating inordinate wealth and property soon after he took office in 1965 (Reuter reports).

It said the records also showed that by 1970, two years before Mr Marcos declared martial law, his wife, Imelda, took trips abroad with as much as £150,000 in cash and \$300,000 in traveller's cheques, and held New York bank accounts under an assumed name with a balance of \$272,437.14.

It said the papers indicated that a wealthy Filipino businessman, who was a secret financial adviser to Mr Marcos, had purchased property for Mr Marcos as early as 1967.

Sacked mayors call protest rallies

Manila (Reuter) - More than 1,000 mayors said yesterday they would lead simultaneous rallies throughout the Philippines to protest against the arbitrary dismissal of elected officials by the Government of President Aquino.

In a full-page advertisement in the mass-circulation Manila Bulletin, they said the

three-day rallies would start tomorrow in constituencies of 1,523 mayors who had been ordered to resign.

The mayors, whose six-year terms ended this month, asked the Government to call an election for May 3 rather than appoint replacements which they described as a "massive act of coup d'etat at local

level". Many members of the New Society Movement of former President Marcos ignored the orders to quit and in several places their supporters barricaded the town halls.

The advertisement said: "Election not selection. The free ballot, not the boot of a man. Suffrage, not this outrage."

Spain's far left in search of unity

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

The almost seven million "no" votes in the Nato referendum have inspired the forces on the left of Spain's ruling Socialist Party to search for some kind of common front with which to fight this year's general election.

The election must constitutionally be held by October, but there is little time to be lost for Andalusia's regional elections, a prior test, are now less than three months away.

Final official figures just released show that the Socialists won the referendum with 9,054,509 votes but the "no" votes totalled 6,872,421 and there were more than 11 million abstentions.

Just as left-wingers appropriate for themselves all the "no" votes, those who abstained have been claimed entirely by the right-wing opposition.

The Communists and their trade unions, who were essentially the organizing force behind the anti-Nato campaign, are fascinated by the referendum results, especially as they polled only 825,000 as a party at the last general election.

Split now at least three ways, the Communists know they risk parliamentary extinction this time unless they can somehow ride on the backs of that referendum protest vote.

But how to keep such a motley body as pacifists, ecologists, disgruntled socialists, anti-American intellectuals, former communists and hard-line communist stalwarts all together for a general election is already dividing rival Communist leaders.

Señor Gerardo Iglesias, the secretary general of Spain's rump Communist Party, favours a loose rein, non-dogmatic approach to attract the young people who flocked to the anti-Nato campaign.

Two communist veterans, Señor Santiago Carrillo, his predecessor, and Señor Ignacio Gallego, leader of the pro-Moscow breakaway Communist Party of the Spanish Peoples, are both refusing to abandon dogmatic claims over the working class. Whether a common front to the left of the Socialists gets off

Suspects caught

Madrid - Pamplona police have captured two suspected key members of ETA's "Nafarra" squad as well as four other suspects (Harry Debelius writes). They included the squad's leader, Señora Mercedes Galdos, aged 30, wanted for questioning in connection with attacks in Navarra over the past six years in which eight people were killed, including two generals.

the ground in the coming weeks will depend largely on whether a group of personalities heading the other constituent elements can sink their rivalries.

The problem of rival personalities also conditions what Spain's centre-right and right can do in a bid to prevent Señor Felipe González from winning a second term as Prime Minister.

Two figures, at least, are bidding to replace the alternative Señor Fraga has offered to socialism with something less homespun and right-wing and more akin to the French formula.

One is Señor Miguel Roca, the Democratic Reformist Party leader, who has now openly identified his party with the Giscardians in France. Señor Oscar Alzaga, leader of the Christian Democrat wing of Señor Fraga's coalition, is the other.

Señor Roca maintains that Señor Fraga's five million votes at the 1982 election correspond essentially with elements in Spain's provincial society rooted in the former authoritarian regime, and thus can never hope to win a majority over the Socialists.

Many people would dearly like Señor Roca, who is a Catalan, to team up with Señor Adolfo Suárez, Spain's first democratic prime minister, to revive a centrist alternative. But the two men have stubbornly refused to cooperate.

Spain's influential big private bankers, who have been a force behind political parties since the advent of democracy and whose disenchantedness with Señor Suárez was one factor behind his decline, do not appear keen to back an all-out alternative to the González Government.

Seoul campus clash

Seoul (Reuter) - Police stormed a Seoul university yesterday and fired tear gas to disperse hundreds of students protesting against President Chun Doo Hwan.

Witnesses said about 300 plain clothes and riot police went to the Jesuit Sogang University, where about 500 students shouting "abolish the Constitution" were holding a rally against the South Korean President, whom they say is a

military dictator. The students hurled stones and petrol bombs at the police. At least one student was arrested.

At Confucian Sangkyunkwan University, about 200 students marched on the campus to back an opposition campaign for election reforms. At Konkuk University, 100 students clashed with riot police who stopped them marching in the streets.



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TWO NEW STAN

Mexico's Cup of salvation

Still scarred by a devastating earthquake, cash-starved Mexico City sees the World Cup as a life-saver. Alan Franks reports

Six months after the earthquake which devastated the heart of Mexico City, Señor Eduardo Islas, a small tour operator, drives his clients around in a van instead of a 60-seat coach. There is simply no longer the demand.

It is hardly surprising. Despite the best efforts of salvage and reconstruction workers, parts of this sprawling and polluted metropolis — at 18 million the world's most populous — could double convincingly as a battle zone. Office and hotel blocks still stand deserted, with monstrous cracks rising up their flanks in jagged seams. They are the lucky ones: many other buildings remain slumped on to their foundations, apparently random victims of the colossal seismic violence which roared in waves beneath the city streets, killing 25,000 people, injuring 30,000 more and leaving 100,000 homeless.

These, at least, are the official figures. Islas himself believes the true death toll to be far higher, swelled by the number of unknown, unregistered citizens whose corpses may even now be mouldering in the debris. It is an insidious climate in which he and his colleagues are trying to reassemble the industry which, after oil, is the country's largest export.

They do so in the fervent hope that after the years of impoverishing corruption by the government of ex-president Lopez Portillo, exacerbated by the halving of oil prices in the past four years, 52 games of football in eight weeks hold the key to a desperately-needed economic recovery. With the World Cup, Mexico's second in 16 years, just eight weeks away, this Catholic nation of 73 million finds itself praying for soccer to provide what industrial planning

(or its absence) has failed to deliver.

The logic is simple: if visitors from the other 23 competing nations return home from the Cup with favourable impressions of Mexico, then the country stands to benefit from a major tourist boom. If not, the future remains bleak. At present the government of Miguel de la Madrid, mid-way through its statutory six-year term, must service a foreign debt of nearly \$100 billion. On top of this it seems likely that Mexico will have to borrow \$6.5 billion from a consortium comprising the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and United States finance export agencies.

Incongruous though it may appear, billions of dollars are now being spent preparing for a soccer fiesta by a country woefully unable to meet its commitments to social reform. The most potent expression of this contradiction threatens to explode on the eve of the tournament, as 50,000 people dispossessed by the earthquake plan to occupy the capital's massive Aztec Stadium in a demonstration against the government's "inadequate" rehousing programme.

Whether or not they gain entry to the 120,000-seat ground (it seems improbable, given the heavy police presence for the Cup), this is scarcely the kind of publicity being sought by de la Madrid. Mexico's consularism is that while the federal government is using the show window of soccer to quicken the long-term prospects of international revenue, so the homeless are pulling the same lever in order to solve their immediate domestic problems.

Those families currently living seven or eight to a room in shanty settlements away from the city



Battle zones: six months after the earthquake left its trail of wreckage, hopes rest on the World Cup to stimulate a tourist boom as Mexico City attempts to return to normal life

centre, or camping under supposedly temporary canvas might be forgiven for seeing little personal benefit in the government's expenditure on a soccer festival.

As well as this, violence among visiting supporters, despite the outwardly-relaxed posture of the organizers, is never far from the official mind: ugly scenes on the terraces or streets could do much to thwart the rehabilitation of Mexico's image.

All this has come at a time when Mexico is at the centre of the

world's political stage, not so much for international sport or natural disaster as for its careful neutrality between the United States to the north and the Central American revolutionaries. Even a brief visit to the capital's purpose-built centres for press and TV coverage of the Cup demonstrates the extent to which the country combines Third World poverty with hi-tech aspirations, somehow centred for almost 60 years by the paradoxically-named Institutional Revolutionary Party.

RISE AND FALL OF TOURISM

British tourists in Mexico

1967	5,582
1968	6,272
1969	5,909
1970	10,148
1971	6,227
1972	7,077
1973	8,590
1974	10,612
1975	11,347
1976	13,562
1977	11,463
1978	17,782
1979	20,210
1980	18,566
1981	12,000
1982	10,000
1983	7,000
1984	9,000

(Latest figures rounded to nearest thousand)



THE VELVET GLOVE OF WELCOME

Mexican jails are not holiday camps, but rumours of starstruck conditions awaiting lawless fans have been greatly exaggerated. Police in Monterrey, where England's Group F is based, vehemently deny that imprisoned supporters face a regime without food.

All Cup tourists will be issued on arrival with an identity card bearing the legend "Monterrey, better than ever". Should they get into a scrape, this will guarantee them immediate access to a member of the British consulate.

The city, with a population of one and a half million, has a British community of 5,000, some of whom will be supplementing the stock of hotel rooms (also 5,000) with bed-and-breakfast for about £18 a night.

Although the standing of the British fan in Mexico is dubious, both because of the Heysel Stadium tragedy and team manager Bobby Robson's complaints about the venue, Señor Salvador Garibay, the state's director of tourist promotion, claims the Monterrey welcome will be cordial. "Mr Robson has been to visit us several times", he says, "and we think now he is a very happy man."



Technologico stadium, Monterrey

Should a supporter be found guilty of an offence such as assault on a policeman, he will find himself in a 40-year-old prison with a population of 1,800. Rather than imprison fans for relatively minor offences, such as petty shoplifting or possession of alcohol at one of Monterrey's two stadiums, police will deport them.

total revenue was \$4.7 billion, but 82 per cent of that was American traffic, with most of the rest divided equally between Europe and Latin America.

With the country poised on the brink of a bold if rather sad offensive to attract world interest, seemingly against all the odds, the true cost of the earthquake can be sensed outside the capital as well. In Ixtapa for example, a new holiday resort on the Pacific coast, trade has suffered a severe setback. But though it lay just 50 miles from the epicentre out at sea, there was just one death and one building damaged. The manager of one of the big hotels holds up his hands as if in supplication to the heavens: "Just when things were starting to go well, this happens. You know, people read in the papers 'Mexico Destroyed'. Exactly that. Because we say 'Mexico' to mean 'Mexico City'. But some people outside, they don't understand. They think the whole country's gone! What chance do we stand?"

Back in the still-mutilated zone of the capital repair work grinds on with a painful slowness. It is estimated that 4,499 buildings were destroyed or severely damaged by the quake. Of those, 1,719 were of five storeys or more, and of that figure 529 were condemned to partial or total demolition. Six months after the disaster, only 178

have been pulled down. Meanwhile the newly-formed Agency for Construction, Renovation and Occupation has to assess the demands of the homeless on a points basis, allocating what temporary accommodation there is. It is little wonder that when the 50,000 planning the Aztec Stadium protest see the work going into preparing for the Cup, they accuse the government of a latterday equivalent of fiddling while Rome burns.

There is also the lingering suspicion that the damage was compounded by the endemic Mexican disease, corruption; and that many of the buildings worst affected had been constructed from materials cheaper than those for which the contractors had been paid.

Now the World Bank is discussing an aid package of \$200 million, on condition that Mexico finds 30 per cent of it. The most bitter irony of this is that it is forcing the administration to siphon money away from severely-stretched programmes including housing. Not even the most chauvinistic Mexican is giving his team much of a chance in the tournament. But for the ones who believe that the event can engender some national phoenix, the results have become strangely academic. This time around, the real stakes are being played for off the pitch.

SATURDAY
The weekend starts here

The Fifties revisited
It was the decade of Suez and Aldermaston marches and *Look Back in Anger*. Above all, it was the decade that saw the emergence for the first time of a teenage culture. *The Times* looks back on the decade of Brylcreem, drainpipe trousers and string ties — the 1950s

Malindi monsters
Fishing in Kenya

Holiday Jumbo
The big crossword

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ACROSS

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- 5 Sea rebellion (10)
- 8 Dove call (3)
- 9 Mimosa-type shrub (9)
- 10 Deep ditch (6)
- 11 Dish lsd (14)
- 12 French (8)
- 14 Frolic (6)
- 17 Past (6)
- 19 Suck out (8)
- 22 Reign (4)
- 24 Drug dependant (6)
- 25 Stupidity (7)
- 26 Betray trust (3)
- 27 Jap dancing girl (2)
- 28 Jehovah (6)

DOWN

- 2 Parent's brother (5)
- 3 Give in (7)
- 4 Disagree (7)
- 6 Mistress's hotel (5)
- 6 Of them (5)
- 7 R. Matrix section (7)
- 13 Christmas climber (13)
- 15 Curant (7)
- 16 Rower's blade (3)
- 17 Consciousness (7)
- 18 Decorative (7)
- 20 Curs slightly (13)
- 21 Extreme (5)
- 23 Wealth (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 910

ACROSS: 8 Convalescence 9 Log 10 Celebrate 11 Scarf 13 Whereby 16 Equate 19 Pursue 22 Fittation 24 Via 28 Companion-walk

DOWN: 1 Scales 2 Enigma 3 Watchful 4 Mellow 5 Scub 6 In-vader 7 Heresy 12 Cup 14 Exponent 15 Bus 16 Efficacy 17 Aplomb 18 Trifid 20 Reveal 21 Elapse 23 Ajar

A malt man's blended life

Alan Shiack manages to mix the roles of whisky chairman and film writer with no difficulty. How does he do it?

Most of us would like to be what we're not, which is probably why so many businessmen throw their hard-earned money behind plays and art galleries, while creative folk gaze wistfully from the other side of the fence at the lush, rich pastures of the City.

Alan Shiack has the best of both worlds. He is the 45-year-old chairman and chief executive of The Macallan, a Scotch whisky firm famed for its malt whiskies. He is also Alan Scott, a highly successful Hollywood film writer (*Don't Look Now*, with Julie Christie and Donald Sutherland, was one of his) and his latest film, *D.A.R.Y.L.*, which has been rapturously received by the American critics ("A combination of *Frankenstein*, *ET* and a banana split", wrote one of them) opens today at five London cinemas.

There is, he says, no conflict in this double life, except that every morning he has to decide whether to put on a tie (City, convention, or not movie mode). "Doing two things is more fun", he says, "and it's actually easier because each helps keep the other in perspective."

Because he's always been known as Allan Scott in the film world (he pseudonym he adopted at university when he and his partner weren't meant to be writing television scripts, few people realize he is also a top business man. His business colleagues, though, are aware of his film work: "Some people imagine you can't be the serious chap they would like you to be because you have this other side", he says. "I'm always amazed when anyone thinks the film business is trivial. It's infinitely larger than the whisky business. I know one small, privately owned film company whose gross revenue exceeds that of the entire whisky industry."



Alan Shiack: best of both worlds

When Peter Shiack died in 1980 Alan became chairman. "It became a full commitment. I didn't write for some time." His creative skills were invaluable, though, when the company started to market a brand. "The other day I was glancing at a draft text for an advertisement during a board meeting. It was too long and I reduced it by half. Somebody said: 'I can't believe you did that in four minutes', and I said: 'I didn't. It took me 20 years.' Editing and re-writing are what I do all the time on film scripts."

He says his writing is now a hobby, but with four films either in production or just about to be, and working with such directors as Nicholas Roeg, Alan Bridges and Ted Kotcheff, he is busier than most full-time writers. "I travel a lot and while I'm flying, I'll spend half the flight mugging up the figures needed for the business meeting I'm attending and the other half on a piece of film work. I finish work every day to be home by six-thirty and rarely work during the weekend. In the summer we take a house in the south of France and I write, without interruption, every morning from eight until 10 and am then very much on holiday."

'Doing two things is easier. Each keeps the other in perspective'

An enthusiast by nature, he is depressed by the British habit of negative criticism, particularly when it's aimed at creative work. "This is symbolized by the Sunday papers carrying pages and pages of reviews where you have to hunt around to find the name of the author or the filmmaker because the reviewer's name is six times the size."

It's very easy to sneer at things and I know people who won't take risks because they are frightened of criticism. On the evening we met, Alan was wearing a flamboyant pink tie and a paler pink shirt with a white collar, a compromise, perhaps, between his two roles? "Oh, he always wears a flashy tie on interview days", said his managing director, who had just flown in from Liverpool with a mysterious package.

Alan tore at the wrappings like a child unwrapping a birthday treat. "Ooh, isn't this exciting?" The parcel contained four bottles which looked at enticing as cough medicine. The chairman sniffed appreciatively at each one and beamed. "It's a new product. No, of course I'm not going to tell you what it is. That would take all the fun out of launching it."

THE NHS DEBATE
Ken Livingstone and Enoch Powell show their spots

DENIM RESHAPED, LEATHER REVAMPED
Fashion takes a tough line

LUCINDA GREEN'S HORSE COMPETITION
(very difficult - just try)

RUSSIAN EASTER IN LONDON AND PARIS

MEN'S BAZAAR
City Samurai: what they make, what they spend

HEALTH AND BEAUTY SUPPLEMENT
Leslie Kenton on fantasy and the face

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FRIDAY PAGE

Next door to a nightmare

No matter how leafy your suburb or quiet your mews, the folk next door can make a big difference between living hell and home sweet home, writes Lee Rodwell

Since agents have long since learnt to sell properties by singing the praises of the neighbourhood. Most of us, however, could also benefit from a little advance information about the neighbours.

No matter how desolate the residential problems with the people next door can make life intolerable. I doubt whether I would have bought my first flat had I known the woman in the flat below had an alcoholic boyfriend whom she regularly threw out in the early hours of the morning. He would then rage up and down the communal stairway, hammering on doors, shouting threats and curses until the police came.

Of course, people can live side-by-side for years, if not actually loving their neighbours then at least tolerating them, until a particular incident triggers off a dispute.

And neighbours come and go. The nice, quiet couple next door sell their flat to a pair of DIY lunatics, the elderly widow is replaced by a family with three teenagers with ghetto blasters.

Dr Guy Cumberbatch, of Aston University, who has recently taken part in a study, Disputes Between Neighbours, says: "I go confidently predict that most people, at some point in their lives will have such serious problems with their neighbours that they will consider moving home." Two years ago, a salesman and his family from the West Midlands did just that - because they were fed up with the woman next door continually appearing topless.

Sometimes people stay and battle it out - literally - and these are the disputes that can end in court. Earlier this year, there was a case involving a boundary dispute between a retired wing commander and his neighbour. There were allegations of an attack with a cricket bat photographed by the 1948 Australian Test team, and tales of a tug-of-war over a terrier.

Other cases include the mother who turned a hose on her neighbours because they banged on the wall during her daughter's piano practice, and the 63-year-old woman who broke her neighbour's new double-glazed window because she was sick of the noise of power drills and electric saws.

In the first case, the judge declined to intervene saying it was "six of one and half a dozen of the other". In the second, the woman was given a conditional discharge for causing criminal damage; sympathetic magis-



trates cut the compensation costs because the DIY enthusiasts "would do most of the work himself".

As Dr Cumberbatch says: "At first sight these incidents can seem trivial, almost laughable. But if someone has persistent problems with a neighbour, then relatively trivial incidents can be very distressing."

Eileen Purfield would agree. For years she and her husband John, a retired electricity board worker, were involved in a boundary dispute with their elderly neighbour, George Mepham, on Turkey Road, Bexhill-on-Sea. The dispute dated back to 1949, when Mr Mepham moved next door to the house, then owned by Mr Purfield's father.

Originally the houses were divided by one footpath. In order to solve the arguments, Mr Purfield called in a surveyor who marked out the boundary, but then the arguments concentrated on who was, or wasn't, a few inches over the line.

Mr Mepham put up a fence. Mr Purfield took it down. Mr Mepham put up a stronger fence, then a six-foot high wall. The Purfields decided to live with the wall, even though they felt it was on their side of the boundary. One of their sons painted a mural on it and Mr Purfield put up a shelf for his pot plants.

Mr Mepham was outraged that they were "taking possession" of his wall, so he knocked it down. Mr Purfield built another wall on the same foundations. Mr Mepham - who was in his 70s - came out with his sledgehammer and knocked

that wall down too. At this point, Mr Purfield called the police; both parties were bound over to keep the peace.

All this happened six years ago and Mr Mepham has since died. Mrs Purfield, aged 55, says: "The neighbours who moved in next were marvellous. But they have the house up for sale and it is a bit worrying."

"It makes such a difference if you do get on. Before, when Mr Mepham was here, however much you told yourself to take no notice, the atmosphere was there all the time. He used to go up the garden and cut the heads off any of my roses that were barely hanging over his side."

"We did try to be friendly. One of my sons asked him round for a drink one Christmas but he told him, rudely, to go away. If someone is being deliberately awkward it's very hard to keep turning the other cheek."

Publicist Dora Dobson also had a problem with a neighbour when she lived in Chobham, Surrey. She says: "Neighbours can make or mar your life. I was there for nine years, and for five I felt under constant pressure."

Mrs Dobson and her neighbour lived in a pair of Victorian semi-detached cottages facing some open land. She says: "It was beautiful - very old and very open - but people used to keep parking on it. I got involved with a protection society to stop this. My neighbour felt that the society had caused a parking problem so he turned his whole front garden into a parking

space, and he used to park his dirty old van there.

"Then his son got an old Jag and used to park it aggressively outside my house, so that my entire view was of a van and this car."

"I put up a 6ft 6in fence between the gardens and then the son started harassing me, banging on my window at night and shouting that he was going to get me."

Disputes about garden walls and parked cars are by no means confined to country areas, although life in the inner cities brings neighbour disputes of its own. When Liz and Lucci Pugliatti came back to their Gospel Oak flat in north London, after some months working in Italy, they found that the house next door was now occupied by a group of people, mostly unemployed.

Mrs Pugliatti, a teacher, says: "The trouble - was that they seemed to sleep most of the day and come to life at about 8pm. Then the noise - music and so on - would go on until about 3 or 4am. When we asked them if they could be quieter, we were told to get lost."

"It was impossible. We were unable to sleep for nights on end so eventually we put the flat on the market."

Another north London woman, who did not wish to be named as she is still trying to get on with her neighbours, talked of the difficulties she faces.

"I've lived in this area for years, only it was in a third floor flat on the corner of a main road where all you could hear were the juggernauts thundering past.

I used to think that if only we could get away from the lorries, all would be peace and tranquillity.

"It has not proved to be the case. There are as lot of Greek Cypriot families here and habits one finds enduring on a Mediterranean holiday when you don't have to get up early for work, are not quite so enduring when you do. On fine evenings, for instance, they like to soo themselves on the steps with their ghetto blasters tuned in to Radio Farnagusta. Although you get a brief respite between eight and nine when they disappear to eat, the noise can go on till midnight."

"And if someone arrives in a car, they won't park and get out and ring the doorbell like anyone else. They sit in their car (with the radio on, of course) and beep until the person they've come for comes down."

"I can remember one evening, there was a particularly loud burst of music from the house opposite which woke my baby up so suddenly that she was terrified. I rushed across the road with my screaming baby in my arms and shouted 'look what you've done'. They thought I was quite mad, of course."

Noise is a common cause of disputes between neighbours, whether it is the sound of someone else's television or hi-fi or the persistent drone of a lawnmower in the suburbs.

But if the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux's information booklet on neighbour disputes is anything to go by, then neighbours can - and do - fall out over almost

anything. Common neighbour disputes, it seems, involved boundaries, fences, walls and so on, animals, repairs and maintenance of a neighbour's property, shared amenities - drains, drives and so on - bonfires, children, unauthorised use of property and parking spaces.

Mick Bradley, organizer of the Balham citizen's advice bureau, says disputes between neighbours - particularly over noise - seem to have become slightly more common.

He adds: "It doesn't take much for one person's enjoyment to become another person's nightmare." But he is also aware of the difficulties involved in resolving such sensitive situations. "It is rarely productive to start a shouting match or to threaten to take legal remedies. The police are often reluctant to get involved in what they see as domestic disputes and although taking civil action in the courts may stop someone doing something, it can be extremely expensive and certainly won't make your neighbour co-operative and friendly in the future."

Dr Cumberbatch agrees. He feels that neighbour disputes are a serious problem which have yet to be researched properly. He would like to see a large survey carried out to investigate the nature of these disputes and the ways in which complainants aggravate the situation by their own behaviour.

He says: "The Englishman still believes that his home is his castle and that he has certain rights. But when there is a difference of values between neighbours, it is a question of agreeing on terms of reference of living next door to each other."

"Probably most people make things worse by complaining. The neighbour is going to be put on the defensive and is likely to be aggressive back. He will take the complaint as a personal attack."

So what are the best ways of tackling a problem with a neighbour?

● Don't lose your temper; ● Invite him/her in for a drink to talk over the problem; ● Ask other neighbours if the problem affects them and see if you can make a joint approach; ● Check your facts before you fly off the handle - the local CAB office or environmental health department can give advice; ● Think long and hard before calling in the police or going to law.

The National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux points out: "The greatest chance of resolving a neighbour dispute and ensuring a better relationship between client and neighbour in the future is if the two sides can talk to each other."

Even the legal profession seems to agree that the law should only be a last resort. Trevor Aldridge, a lawyer and author of *Your Home and the Law*, says: "We are very fond of the saying that an Englishman's home is his castle, but people don't always understand what the law allows. It only takes a few misunderstandings between neighbours for considerable ill-feeling to build up."

FIRST PERSON

Why I'll never have words to explain why I abandoned my baby son

Many years ago - well, perhaps not that many, but long enough in social attitudes to feel like an oeon - I had a baby which I gave up for adoption. At the time the reasons for my decision were many and various and very pressing. Lack of money, job, parental support, visible father, home - the decision to give the child up was almost inevitable. From the moment of decision, in the sixth month of pregnancy, it was the child, not my child, my baby. To make it as possible as all, one had to excise rigorously any possessive feelings one might be tempted to have.

When the child was born, however, it became my baby. It had to be. I was told I must look after it for 10 days before it went to its adoptive home. And in those 10 days it became my son.

I was told little of the adoptive parents beyond assurances that they were "lovely professional people who'll give the baby everything you can't, dear". Those were the social worker's exact words. So, at the age of 10 days, my son was handed over to total strangers.

To survive the experience, it was essential to use the same emotional control I had exercised during pregnancy; the only time control became impossible was on my son's birthday, and I wept. I wept each birthday for five years, before I learnt not to and kept the ache inside. But I wondered and watched.

I watched children of similar ages going off to playground, primary school, secondary school, and I wondered: how are you doing? I watched television programmes on juvenile delinquency and child prodigies and I wondered: is it you?

These days I am happily married with two legitimate children (my own mother still has to prevent herself from calling them real children, as if the first one was a trial run). I have a successful career and we live in comfortable middle-class prosperity. And we have all the things - and probably more - than my son's adoptive parents were able to give him.

I do resent it. I can't help it. I resent the fact that I didn't know life was going to pass out successfully. Perhaps if I'd kept the child I wouldn't have - another source of guilt. I resent the fact that young girls today, in the same position as I was, are called Single Parent Families and have massive back-up and support. I shouldn't resent it, but there we are.

Last year my son must have taken his 0-levels. True, I didn't remember his birthday until the actual day, rather than the week before, but I still wonder how he did in his exams, whether he's planning to stay on at school, if he's planning to go on to university, if he's unemployed. Darn it, if he's still alive.

Still, very occasionally, the cast of a face in the street, the tone of a voice overheard in a shop, a name called among friends, and I'll wonder: is it you? And thanks to well-meaning legislators, I live in abiding terror that one day I'll open the door to find a young man looking at my nice house, my swimming pool, my boisterous, well-fed kids and asking me: "Why? What did I do wrong that you gave me away?" I don't know if I'll have the words to answer.

I read of some adopted children who "can't help wondering if she, or rather they, held on to us over all these years". Without wishing to cause pain or discomfort, I have to answer: Yes, ever and always.

Dilys Jones

Can emotional stress cause breast cancer?

Over the last decade the possibility that stress may be a trigger in the development of some cancers has been investigated. Breast cancer has come under close scrutiny and there have been indications that women who find it difficult to deal with emotional turmoil may be vulnerable. Next month's issue of the British Journal of Cancer has thrown further light on the subject with an analysis of Danish women. The aim was to investigate any links between the loss of a husband and the risk of developing breast cancer. Divorce, or death of a

husband, are the most stressful experiences women have to suffer. The Danish study makes optimistic readings of about 3,500 women half had breast cancer; the others did not. There was no statistically significant difference between the divorce rates or the number of widows in the two groups; in fact there were slightly fewer widows and divorcees in the group with cancer. Perhaps the role stress plays should be re-examined.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

of the spirit in maintaining a healthy mind and body will soon have a physical or practical dimension. The crypt of St Marylebone parish church in central London is being converted into a centre for healing and counselling - believed to be the first formal arrangement to be made between the church and the medical profession. Dr Steve Van Toller, of the department of psychology, says that the apparent loss of appetite by many old people may be partly because food starts tasting bland and dull. In the United States it was found that elderly people who flavour was added to their meals - Browning meat before stewing it, for example, will seal the surface and preserve the flavour, while adding herbs can perk up an unappetizing dish. It does not take much to compensate for the loss, says Van Toller. Old people just need to learn to be more liberal with herbs and spices.

project was launched earlier this month with the support of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sir Douglas Haig, President of the Royal College of Physicians, and Lord Hallam of St Marylebone. Conversion of the crypt to a series of consulting rooms (including a music therapy room) will cost well over £1m and the fund-raisers are more than half way to their target. Patients consulting a GP can expect ordinary NHS treatment, although the doctor may recommend that they be treated by an acupuncturist or other complementary medicine or a religious counsellor. An appeal to raise funds to complete the project will also take place on the premises. Links are already forged with the Jewish Welfare Board and the Raphael Centre which gives psychotherapy, and formal contact has been made with the mosque at Regent's Park. NHS patients will not be charged for their care and patients using the other services will be told how much they cost and asked to contribute what they can. The crypt will also house a brain scanner to be used by private patients, the rent from which should defray some of the centre's costs.

Instant benefit assessments It could soon be easier for people to visit the local health centre than the social security office to find out what their social security entitlements are. Dr Brian Jarman, a GP and Professor of Primary Care at St Mary's Hospital Medical School, west London, has succeeded in doing what the DHSS has so far failed to do - devise a computer program which will calculate benefit entitlements on the spot. His system is already in action at the Lisson Grove and Kentish Town health centres in London and has been well received by the public. After it has been updated to incorporate the latest round of benefit changes, it is to be made available to other GPs in the country this summer.

Dr Jarman's program is the result of six years' work, the DHSS having provided the manpower to help with its development over the last three years. Speaking at a meeting organized recently by the National Information Forum, Dr Jarman said that half of those entitled to family income supplement did not receive it, and a third of those entitled to supplementary benefit did not claim. GPs were in an ideal position to spot those who might be entitled to and gain from financial help. The twin link to prevent diabetes Doctors at Kings College Hospital and the Middlesex Hospital, London, have made an important discovery in our understanding of diabetes. Studying sets of identical twins in which one of the pair developed diabetes while the other stayed healthy, the doctors found that it is possible to recover from the disease process that leads to diabetes. Many of the twins of diabetics showed changes in the immune system and in sugar tolerance around the same time as the development of diabetes in the sibling. But in the healthy twins the immune system somehow returned to normal and the damage to the insulin-secreting cells of the pancreas was limited. The doctors, who reported their findings in last week's British Medical Journal, now want to find a way of limiting the damage therapeutically. They also intend to compare closely those twins who developed diabetes with those who did not, to see if there are any common environmental factors which might be a clue to the cause of diabetes.

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Putting the spice back into life Old people find it increasingly difficult to read small print and hear whispers, but loss of these two senses can be compensated for by spectacles and hearing aids. Taste, one of the other senses, also dims with time, but researchers at the University of Warwick suggest that this, too, can be helped. Researchers exposed 900

THE TIMES DIARY

The Beeb's April follies

The BBC's April Fool box, which I have discovered is due to be broadcast on BBC-2 next Tuesday night, seems to be going horribly wrong. Listed without any flourish in the Radio Times as A Question of Fact at 7.30 pm, it promises a "sensational discovery" narrated by Magnus Magnusson. That "discovery" is a 1936 film showing Hitler on a secret visit to England to meet Edward VIII. "Evidence" is also produced suggesting a link between Hitler and the Abdication. Magnusson also discloses the equally "sensational" contents of the hitherto unpublished "diaries" of Unity Mitford, in which she writes: "The Fisher turned to me with the gentlest look in his eyes and revealed his plans to deal with these horrid Jews. I cannot tell you how simply sensible it all is."

Oh lord!

Bill Rodgers, Labour minister turned Gang of Four member, chose the wrong door to knock on when canvassing in Fulham the other day: "You're wasting your time for two reasons," came a familiar voice from inside. "First I do not have a vote," said the former Labour Foreign Secretary, Lord Stewart of Fulham, "and secondly I wouldn't vote Alliance even if I did."

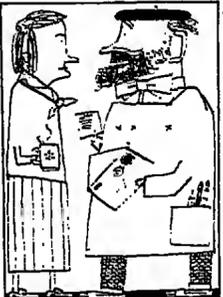
Stamped

Lesley Hammond, GLC member and Labour chief whip on the Inner London Education Authority, has been served with a bill by the finance department for spending £1,200 of GLC ratepayers' money in propaganda against Rupert Murdoch. She was found to have posted letters through the GLC urging the governing bodies to boycott News International titles. The good fairy, in the guise of Labour colleagues, have had a quick whirround, and coughed up £500 towards her debt. Just £700 to go.

No joke

Whatever happened to the showbiz career of the sacked Rabbi Clifford Cohen, who made headlines with his risqué wisecracking double-act Mazel and Tor? Far from becoming the next half of Little and Large, he is now a management training consultant in adult education.

BARRY FANTONI



"Splendid news! I've been commissioned to paint a photo of the Queen."

Right hooked

The right on Labour's national executive, fuming at the way Liverpool's Militants were left the book this week, should remind themselves who dream up the quorum rule that allowed a walk-out to reduce the meeting to a shambles. When the right took a majority on the executive in 1982 they feared that the left would win votes by default by delaying key decisions until after busy right-wing trade-union barons had left for other business. Thus their first move was to increase the quorum from 10, which would have kept Tuesday's meeting running, in 15 - which didn't.

First strike

Britain may have pulled out, but it is still treating Unesco to the rough edge of its tongue. The Office of the Auditor General, which has kept Unesco's books for 40 years, is now lashing out at the organization's failure to discipline staff who went on strike last December in protest at the automatic management style of its secretary-general, M'bow. In a letter the audit office notes that staff meetings lasted 14 hours and work was halted for seven hours while seven officials went on hunger strike, yet salaries were paid in full at the end of the month. The audit office also asks pointedly the cost of strikers using Unesco photocopying and translation services during the dispute. If Britain's decision to oust more brickbats like these, by some means current meetings by ending Britain's supervision of Unesco finances (a nice little earner amounting to over £200,000 a year) could increase in volume.

PHS

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

I think this country is going mad. The rule of law, which is the foundation not only of our liberty but of our constitution and our protection against anarchy, has been knocked about a good deal in the last couple of decades by governments (particularly their law officers), by trades union leaders who choose which laws they will obey and which ignore; by civil servants who similarly decide which confidences to keep and which to break; by the groupuscules of the far left, playing at revolution but advocating real crime in the furtherance of it; by local councillors who rob their constituents for their own political advantage; by university authorities who curtail free speech at the first threat of violence, and frequently without even waiting for the threat; by the whole tribe of Single Issue Fanatics; by Mr Scargill's Mohocks; by policemen who bring false charges against the victims of their own illegal acts; by Members of Parliament who openly despise parliamentary government; by such infamies as Michael Foot's closed-shop legislation and the present government's indefensibly undemocratic folly of banning trades unions at GCHQ; by juries who have turned the libel laws into an open-cast mine for every gold-digger who can raise the price of a writ; and by the steadily engulfing tide of new legislation, most of which is unnecessary, much of which is pernicious, and all of which presents, in its quantity and its incomprehensibility, a monstrous threat to a public no member of which can hope to understand it or indeed to know of its existence.

"The worst is not / So long as we can say 'this is the worst'." For the latest assault on the structure and basis of our law is the growing belief - its growth apparently unstoppable - that if anyone is accused of a serious crime, not just by the prosecuting authorities but by the neighbours, the press and television, or any sufficiently reputable MP in search of a headline, the accused must inevitably be guilty, and if he cannot be put in prison, he should at least be sacked from his employment and delivered over to the attentions of a mob gathered outside his house to shout abuse and smash windows. Lynching never took root in this country; if some people have their way, it soon will.



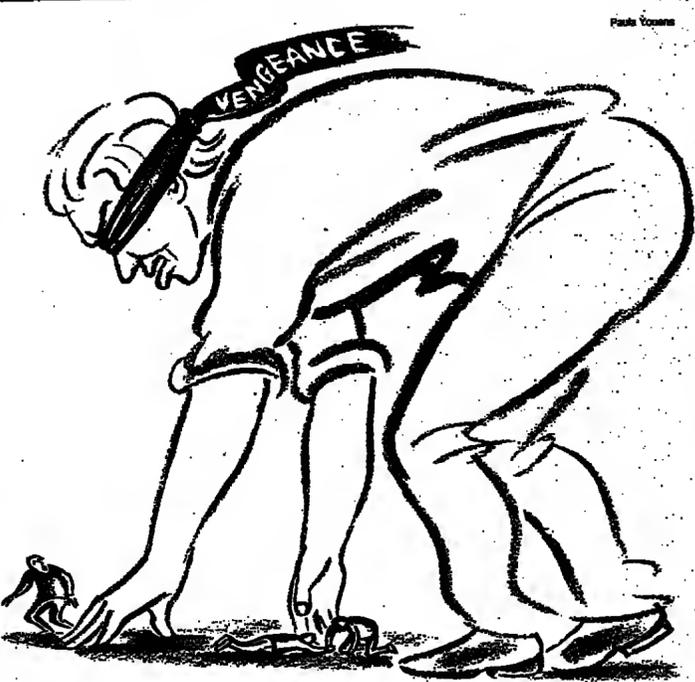
I suppose it all began when, amid collective parliamentary hysteria, the law was changed to prohibit the publication of the name of any woman involved as a witness in criminal proceedings against a man who is alleged to have raped her. (After some antiquary who still adhered to notions of even-handed justice pointed out that that was unfair to the accused man, the law was changed to give him, too, the protection of anonymity. Now, to the surprise of no one familiar with the cell-like sullenness of Home Secretaries' backbones, the present one has been dropping hints about abolishing the anonymity rule for the man but not for the woman.)

When the rule of law was thus being bent into strange and unlovely shapes, the louder and more unbridled among the groups demanding more severe punishments for rapists (Lord Denning has just been advocating castration) apparently began to believe that any man accused of rape must, by virtue of the accusation alone, be guilty. That is not much of an exaggeration; we have already come dangerously close to demands for the abolition, in rape cases, of the defence of consent, and voices have been raised to demand restrictions on the cross-examination of women giving evidence of being raped.

Rape is certainly one of the very vilest of crimes, for years made worse for the victim by the lack of sympathy it evoked, particularly among judges who behaved as though it was a trivial matter at best, and the fault of the woman at worst. But as the pendulum has swung, we are in very real danger of an assumption that no woman ever deliberately encourages a man's advances knowing where they are tending, still less that she ever brings a wholly false charge; if rape is alleged, reason flees.

And when the alleged offence of sexual molestation concerns children, the baying has recently become even louder and uglier. In the two most recent notorious instances, the relevant authorities saw, and said, that no prosecution could succeed because of the laws which govern evidence by young children and the corroboration such evidence requires. Frustrated by the requirements of justice, the hunters, in the press and in the streets, found that they had at last got two real targets marked down for vengeance, in the shape of a doctor and a clergyman, whose homes were promptly invaded by a crowd of amateur executioners eager to demonstrate their skills and with an alarmingly good chance of being allowed to do so.

I have no doubt that there have been cases in which rapists, or those who have sexually abused children or treated them with non-sexual sadistic brutality, have gone unpunished because of the law's requirements. But that is the inevitable result of having a system of court law instead of mob law, guesswork, party-political law, little-tattle law, publicity law or no law. A man is not to be punished unless he has been convicted, in due form and in a properly constituted court, according to laws and rules laid down in advance. If he is acquitted, or not tried because acquittal would be inevitable, he is entitled to a presumption of innocence, even if the whole village is united in thinking him guilty, the media have demonstrated as much to their own satisfaction, and two-thirds of the House of Commons are either of a similar opinion or more likely - think it wise to placate the noisier of their constituents by pretending that they are.



When reason is raped by the mob

But it is a distinguishing mark of civilization that private revenge (and more particularly vicarious private revenge) is not to be countenanced; vengeance is mine, saith the law, I will repay. And if I cannot repay, the law goes on, because my hands are tied by rules made necessary by the requirements of justice, let no man presume to usurp my function. No feelings, however powerful, widespread and understandable, are a substitute for the careful processes of law, and of law, moreover, free of all feeling on the part of those involved in its operation.

It is a well-nigh universal law, that in any situation which induces insensate anger among the observers of it, nothing but calm and reason can deal with the situation that has brought about the rage. The present state of affairs demands calm and reason as never before. Yet this is the very moment at which the government proposes to abolish the right to trial by jury in cases involving criminal charges considered trivial (for an innocent man there is no such thing as a criminal charge that is trivial), and to abolish also the right of a defendant to make three peremptory jury-challenges and thus ensure that, in compliance with the law and the constitution, he is tried by a jury of his peers. And worst of all, after a third recent case, there is now growing pressure, of exactly the kind governments are keen to give in to, for a change in the law which would enable a jury in criminal proceedings to know of previous convictions registered against the defendant if they are trying.

Do I really have to tell Times readers why that is a very bad idea? Very well, then, I shall. It is a very bad idea because a jury is not required, or even permitted, to say whether the accused is a villain; they are required to say only, on the evidence before them, whether he has or has not been proved beyond a reasonable doubt to have committed the crime of which he has been accused; we do not punish a man for being the kind of person who would be likely to break the law, only for actually breaking it.

But those who can shout the loudest do not necessarily have justice on their side, as one of my ancestors pointed out to Barabbas. I think it is time, high time, for a voice to be raised. It is time for us to reflect upon the damage already done to our rule of law, while those who profess or aspire to lead us have so often acquiesced in the damage, and in some cases applauded it. But first, let quiet reign. If it reigns long enough, we might be able to hear this exchange, between More and Roper, in Robert Bolt's A Man for All Seasons:

The law, Roper, the law, I know what's legal, not what's right. And I'll stick to what's legal... What would you do? Cut a great road through the law to get after the Devil?

I'd cut down every law in England to do that! Oh? And when the last law was down, and the Devil turned round on you - where would you hide, Roper, the laws all being flat? This country's planned thick with laws from coast to coast - Man's laws, not God's - and if you cut them down - and you're just the man to do it - a'you really think you could stand upright in the winds that would blow then?



When the word was crucified

An agony and love beyond our questioning: a Good Friday meditation by Dewi Morgan

The father who sends his son out to look after the family estate knowing there are desperate armed men about is not generally admired. But, says John the Evangelist, "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son." God knew there was a tree growing in Palestine destined to be a Cross. What sort of parent was he?

The heart of the Christian faith is that since before time began, God is love. Love demands an object. So comes the first glimpse of the intertwining Trinity of Father, Son and Spirit: not three gods but one. Therefore all three gods are together in everything God does. The only way to approach Calvary is to realize that on that Cross are Father and Spirit as well as the Son. That effectively disposes of all the "explanations" of the Crucifixion which are even more contorted than the problem and its agony.

Jesus did not walk the Way of Sorrows and hang dehydrating in the sun to appease a Father whose pride had been offended. Jesus was not a sacrifice to bribe a jealous tyrant. Jesus was man as God sees him, and God as man sees him. The church down the centuries has tried to plumb the depths of

sin. So the second Adam came to introduce into the human bloodstream a dialysis. The first Adam reached for a tree to take. The second bung from a tree to give. But such words are the cosmic poetry of God's promises. Humanity looked up at the heavens and said: "Show me. Make it real." The essence of Good Friday is that it is an Act of God, not the act of one of his servants. Even the Word did not remain mere verbalising. It became flesh, crucified flesh.

The Crucifixion and the Resurrection are among the best-attested events in the ancient world. The events of the Cross are historical enough to promote an obscure Roman provincial governor (who washed his hands of the matter) to the permanent role of the famous. The Cross is the intersection between the cosmic, the eternal, the transcendent and the specific, local, present-tense, immanent. It stretches the arms of a dying man until symbolically they embrace eternity and reach out for all creation even as it is.

A few hours of intense agony and Jesus was dead. "As dead as a noxious bird nailed to a barnyard door," said Cardinal Newman. We must avoid any sentimentalism, any clichés, over this. The final fact of Calvary is that Jesus was beyond hope of doing anything for himself. So he went to the place of the very dead: "He preached to the spirits in prison," says Peter (1 Peter 3: 19). No one, even the departed, shall be left out.

The church has sometimes been careless about its verbs, but we are much nearer the truth when we say that Jesus "was raised" rather than "rose". The verb must be passive because Jesus, dead, could not be active. Jesus, who had brought new blood into this world, became the pattern of the new life in the next. He was still Jesus recognizable in his post-resurrection appearances, but now he was that Jesus for whom his followers would face lions in the imperial circus. The Jesus who was human and divine had effected the as-oneness between God and man. Is there anyone whose insight is strong enough to gaze straight at all this except through a glass darkly? The author is a former rector of St Bride's, Fleet Street.

David Watt

A triumph for nationalism

The clash between the US and Libya in the Gulf of Sirte this week has been variously interpreted as a foolish case of superpower machismo and, alternatively, as the well-merited defeat of a serious challenge to international law. It can equally well be seen as an example of two politicians, both masters of the art of publicity, grappling with nationalism - the most potent political force in the modern world - and turning it to their own use.

The advantage of this perspective is that it explains something that looks extremely odd on any other interpretation - namely the fact that both sides are equally delighted by the outcome. President Reagan is basking in a remarkable sub-burst of bipartisan approval which will help him get support for his defence budget and will probably tip the Congressional balance in favour of aid to the Nicaraguan rebels. Colonel Gaddafi has successfully whipped up a tempest of enthusiasm at home by his defiance of the "American imperialists", and aroused popular sympathy in every country in the Arab world. The repercussions on American standing in the Middle East and in Europe no doubt seem as trivial to Reagan as the failure to establish his claim to the whole Cyrenaican Sea must to Gaddafi.

There is not much point in Europeans agonizing about how to turn Gaddafi into a quiet, statesmanlike member of the international community, rather than the Ken Livingstone of the Levant. It cannot be done. His relatively precarious domestic situation, as well as his personal egoism and vanity, ensure that he will continue to devote his considerable skills to exploiting the paranoid aspects of Arab nationalism. Assuming we reject the risky option of a physical attempt (in the manner of Suez) to replace him with a western puppet, the only plausible strategy is to limit the damage he can inflict - by taking strong practical measures against terrorism through helping the Middle East peace process, and, above all, by denying him issues on which he can strike heroic stances.

The more debatable question for Europeans is whether we should try to blunt the force of American nationalism, and if so how. Since 1917 when the US first came on to the world stage, the difficulty we have faced in dealing with the Americans has been the same. It is that the American democracy is virtually incapable of acting in foreign affairs except under the impulse of emotion. Presidents may devise policies based purely on a cool perception of national interest, but they cannot proceed to implement them unless they can mobilize a common sentiment in Congress and public opinion. This is a very difficult thing to do in a gigantic plural society unless the feelings involved are very strong and simple. National pride, anger, fear, hate, hope, and moral fervour are the essential fuels and without them the engine of American world leadership lapses into isolationism and despair. The consequence has been that

nearly all American presidents who have tried to mobilize support for a positive foreign policy, from Woodrow Wilson onwards, have had to overstep their wares. Wilson and Roosevelt convinced Americans that their principles would produce a world justice in which war could be outlawed; Truman scared them into prodigious military expenditure with the fear of a global red peril; Eisenhower, Kennedy and Carter all embarked on moral crusades for "freedom"; Johnson told them at every step of the way that technological superiority would win the Vietnam war; Nixon painted a picture of peace in our time through détente; Reagan has combined a version of the "freedom" campaign with a more recent vision of a world from which nuclear weapons can be banished by technology.

Every one of these ideas has been a profound disappointment, and each has eventually produced disillusionment and often dangerous reactions. And yet each, in its time, has put together a constituency for external action by appealing to America's idea of itself as specially righteous, specially powerful and specially entitled to deploy righteousness and power on a world scale.

This fact has always created the central dilemma for America's allies. Accepting that American moralistic nationalism is the condition of American action, would we rather do without either? Our usual answer has been to try to undo the package and have American action without its accompanying disadvantages. But we have constantly been frustrated by the imperatives of American politics - and never more so than under this administration. The case for Reagan is that by restoring the necessary emotional elements of hope and pride to America after Watergate, Vietnam, Tehran and the rest, he has actually restored the essential psychological foundations of American foreign policy. The case against him is that he has only been able to do so by talking a lot of ideological hot air, by distorting the American economy to deal with a largely imaginary military crisis, and by resurrecting illusions of American omnipotence.

The Gaddafi affair is the latest example of this contradiction. It gives Americans the invigorating impression that they have clipped the wings of an anti-social monster, expunged the humiliation of the Achilles Laurus, and demonstrated American power to a sceptical world. In the process it has given Gaddafi an unconfessed bonus, created unnecessary difficulties for moderate Arab leaders and invited a "hemispheric" of anger when new terrorist attacks demonstrate that nothing much has been changed. The trouble is that the two consequences are inseparable. We cannot have one set without the other. And in these circumstances there is nothing for Europe to do with Reagan, any more than with Gaddafi, except to recognize the inevitable and try to limit the damage as best we can.

moreover... Miles Kingston

An asdfghjkl of bestsellers

Here is a selection of some of the more interesting books due to appear during the rest of 1986. April Farewell to the GLC: a lavish colour book, founded by the GLC, produced by the GLC with an introduction by Ken Livingstone (GLC, £15). Everyday Life in the GLC: by Laurie Taylor. An amusing, sociological survey of what it is like to work in the old GLC Empire, or at least a few amusing interviews with people who used to work there (Paradigm, £12). Asking Wendy Cope Out for a Drink: A new volume of poems by Kingsley Amis, including some accurate parodies of Kingsley Amis (Kaolin & Morphine, £8.95). May The Wit and Wisdom of Sarah Ferguson (Slimbacks 75p). A Complete History of the American-Libyan War 1986, by Major-General Sir Max Hastings. Hastings was the first man to walk into liberated Tripoli, and this is his vivid but sober account of how he managed to combine winning the war with running the Daily Telegraph (Frontline, £15.95). Egon Ronay Guide to Restaurants That Do Not Speak English. Mr Ronay's quest for eating places not so far covered now extends to menus written entirely in pictograms (Chinese), incomprehensible languages (Far East cookery), French that the French cannot understand (nouvelle cuisine) and English that the English cannot understand (everywhere else) (£4.50). Great Underwater Treasures of the V&A, by Sir Roy Strong. Features a cover photo of the indomitable Strong in bathing trunks and snorkel (V&A, £19). June Farewell, Halley's Comet, by Laurie Taylor. An entertaining survey of people's reactions to Halley's comet, or at least a few amusing interviews with people who saw it (Paradigm Books, £12). What's It All About, Then? by Dr Jonathan Miller. In 1985 a mysterious studio set worth mil-

lions of pounds appeared in the BBC, labelled Origins. Where did it come from? How was it built? Where is it now? Dr Miller answers all these baffling questions (BBC, £9.99). July Things That Have Recently Fallen Over and Broken at the V&A. A lavish picture book by Sir Roy Strong, with a cover photo of the author with a tube of Araldite (Nicky Bird Books, £17). The Wedding. Seventeen books of the same name rushed out for the marriage of Prince Andrew. Watching the World Cup. A highly stimulating survey of people's reactions to the 1986 World Cup Finals, or at least a few chats between Laurie Taylor and some of his mates who saw it (Paradigm Books, £13). August Homage to Asdfghjkl, by Anthony Burgess. A set of sparring book reviews written by Mr Burgess entirely on the middle row of the typewriter keyboard, and the first major work of his without the letter "E" (Gibbs Books, £15). We Never Sued Anyone, by Richard Ingrams. Mr Ingrams achieved his ambition in 1986 of stopping being a Shrewsbury Old Boy and going straight out to be a grand old man of letters. In this moving memoir, he describes what it is like to bypass middle age completely (Eyebooks, £14.50). Cocktail Recipes, by Roger Scruton. Scruton examines the philosophical basis for man's desire to mix drinks together, and relates this unnatural practice to our modern malaise. His recipes for a Wittgenstein Wallbanger, Existentialist Fizz and Long Slow Scruton should provide a talking-point (Martini & Nietzsche, £14.50). September Egon Ronay Guide to Laurie Taylor's Eating-Places. With a lavish cover photo of Sir Roy Strong with apron and wok (Trendbooks, £16). December All the above, remaindered for Christmas.

صكنا من الأهل



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THE NEW INTOLERANCE

Britain was, until recently, a society almost notorious for its tolerance. Admittedly, this was generally explained as the result of the British people's lack of interest in religious and political questions rather than as a commitment to the principle of toleration.

Still, the practical effect was that the most eccentric and offensive views could be freely expressed without blows being exchanged. Not everyone approved. But if any threat to free speech was discerned twenty years ago, it was thought to come from a puritan Right of provincial aldermen and maiden aunts hostile to artistic freedom in sexual matters, rather than from any political tendency. Left revolutionaries were then too few in number for any policy but unqualified support for free speech to be in their interest. They still are few in number. But because they are concentrated in a few areas - notably higher education, the public sector, large cities and in particular their decaying centres - some now appear to feel that they can safely and justifiably set limits to what is acceptable opinion in public debate.

The controversy over the Bradford headmaster, Mr Ray Honeyford, was the first of these recent episodes. No sooner had this been settled, however, than it was followed by an attack upon the Conservative MP, Mr John Carlisle, at Oxford. Several other speakers have since been prevented from speaking at universities by the threat of riot.

Two new instances of the higher intolerance are now on view in the Bristol area. Professor John Vincent has had his entertaining history lectures at Bristol University disrupted by mobs protesting

against his column in the Sun newspaper. And Mr Jonathan Savery is threatened with suspension from his post at the Avon Multicultural Education Centre (MEC) in Bristol where some of his colleagues regard his article, "Multicultural Education as Witchcraft", as "racist".

The two cases differ significantly. Physical violence was used against Professor Vincent. A greater assault on academic freedom can scarcely be imagined than violently halting a professor's university lectures because of his association with an outside institution to which the protesters object. It is some consolation, however, that the Bristol University authorities apparently intend to take punitive measures against such students as took part in the disruption.

It is from the authorities in the Avon education area, however, that the threat to suspend Mr Savery comes. The Director of Education, Mr P. Coleman, argues that there is a prima facie case against him.

These differences should not obscure the central similarity. Both men are being punished for expressing an opinion. Professor Vincent's breezy populist Sun column is thought objectionable on grounds that it is "sexist".

Mr Savery is being harassed because he expressed the view that multicultural education should concentrate upon teaching useful language skills to minority children rather than upon uncovering the supposedly entrenched racism of British society as his critics think proper.

Mr Coleman, in a letter to the Times on the Savery case, advanced the following justification: "If an individual's expression of opinion is extreme and provocative enough

to be deeply and seriously offensive to others, particularly those with whom he or she is supposed to be working, then whose freedom is put at risk?"

The answer to that question is, quite simply, nobody's freedom is put at risk. They may be rightly offended. They may even be rightly punished. But nobody at an institution of higher education has any grounds for complaining that he has been offended by contrary opinion, nor any claim to be protected from the experience.

What is further alarming in these two cases is the extreme scope of the complaint that offence has been given. The charge of "sexism" against Professor Vincent boils down to the fact that his articles appear in a newspaper near to some photographs judged sexually offensive. And Mr Savery, in effect, is condemned for not demonstrating sufficient zeal in his anti-racism. If such are the standards by which speech is banned and punishment determined, who shall escape whipping?

Yet for some keepers of the liberal conscience, a charge of racism is equivalent to proof of it. "Sexism", too, is beginning to acquire the same capacity to damn.

That perhaps explains the ominous calm with which these recent cases of censorship have been greeted both outside the universities and sometimes within them. It is disturbing, for instance, that the Association of University Teachers has been so slow to comment publicly on the Vincent case.

Tolerance is a fine tradition. But it should hardly be extended to the point where it fails to notice intolerance altogether.

MRS AQUINO'S HARD CHOICES

When Corazon Aquino became President of the Philippines one month ago, she faced a clear but potentially divisive choice. She had to decide whether to work with the "constitutional" accommodations of the Marcos era - the National Assembly dominated by his KBL party and the Marcos constitution of 1973 - or riding high on her wave of popular support, to make a clean break with the past.

Either course had its risks. If she decided to sever all ties with the past, she risked creating an impression of instability. She also risked criticism from those who saw a contradiction between the number of people in her own Cabinet who had faithfully served the former regime and her abandonment of the pro-Marcos National Assembly. If, on the other hand, she decided to maintain the mechanisms of power associated with ex-President Marcos, she risked

accusations that her accession to power had changed nothing. She also risked losing at least the possibility of eventually neutralizing the armed opponents of the Marcos regime, in particular the Communists.

In these circumstances, the decision to dissolve the National Assembly and formally suspend the Constitution, while maintaining the civil rights it theoretically guaranteed, was a shrewd move. By avoiding the term "revolutionary" to describe her government (preferring to call it "provisional"), she also avoided alienating middle class Filipinos and the country's foreign creditors.

If nothing else, the decision to declare a provisional government and promise new National Assembly elections within a year buys the Aquino government time. What it cannot do is postpone awkward decisions indefinitely.

The first of these will have to

be made in the next few weeks with the selection of the commission to draft the new constitution. The balance between political groupings will have to be carefully drawn.

The other risk inherent in the declaration of the provisional government is the power President Aquino has now arrogated to herself. For the time being, Mrs Aquino's pledges to use her power judiciously and in consultation with her Cabinet can be taken at face value. And if the timetable for drafting and approving the new constitution is adhered to, the time bought by the decision will have been well used and the Philippines should have a new constitutional and popularly elected government within a year. But if momentum is lost, the country will have a President who has no less power than Ferdinand Marcos had in the last years of his rule.

ONLY ONE OF LONDON'S PROBLEMS

To the United States the "new federalism" has transferred powers and responsibilities out of the central government to where they can be better managed and supervised, by states and local authorities. It is among President Reagan's unnoticed achievements. In France a government of different ideological stripe has pushed against centuries of political centralisation to give French administration a genuine regional element. This has been applauded on right and on left.

And in Britain? This week-end the Greater London Council and the Metropolitan Councils are abolished in a welter of partisanship and indignity. Power slides further to Whitehall and Westminster.

Half a cheer can be raised that, at last, an unedifying episode is over. Half a cheer, too, that the extravagant business of demobilisation - with its last-minute rush of council grants, gifts and spoils - has come to an end. But this is not the end of the conurbations.

Decisions about the capital's roads and vehicles must still be made - and controversy about them will not be the just because they will henceforth be made in the bowels of the Department of Transport. Likewise London's river. That its future lies with a private company (The Thames Water Authority) will not diminish public interest in its cleanliness, height or traffic. Ditto the disposal of the conurbations' refuse; their protection against fire; their encircling green belts.

The line of authority has changed but the scope for controversy and the pertinence of questions about public expenditure: these go on. Mechanisms for achieving public consensus will be needed, which is why, already, there are voices predicting that some kind of conurbation-wide representative body will before long have to be recreated.

Of course there was always a case for abolition - and one that could have been made with much more aplomb by ministers. The governance of the city areas of England by big but weak county councils has been open to question since Mr Peter Walker's reforms of the early 1970s.

It has never been clear (and it is still unclear) why there had to be a uniform system for such manifestly different urban entities as the West Midlands (a continuous built-up area) and South Yorkshire, (four separate, free-standing towns). It has never been clear (nor has the abolition exercise clarified) why Birmingham or Leeds should not run their own buses and fire service and police forces.

The last great report on the government of London was Sir Edwin Herbert's. His dictum about the City of London - that logic could only go so far - applied also to the arrangements set up in 1963. As then predicted, the GLC was squeezed between the central government's perennial interest in the way the capital was run and the assertiveness

of the boroughs. The GLC's bid to plan failed when, first, its great 1960's road scheme and, then, its map of future development were defeated by political partisanship and economic change. The GLC never managed to find the bridge that could link the disparate interests of London's affluent suburbs and its poorer core and East End.

But the principled case for re-organising London's government, say, by depriving the GLC of its executive functions while enhancing its deliberative and oversight capacities, was made by no-one. The public has been left with an impression of misused central authority.

Administrative logic has little place in the new arrangements. The Inner London Education Authority is left, an odd vestige of a London Council Council that died 25 years ago. Rate equalisation, the primary means of redistributing money from the business class and from the more affluent areas, is left intact.

Since 1981, the government has expended large amounts of its energy and parliamentary resource on abolition. That is now accomplished. But the purpose of the exercise - considered among the priorities set for Britain by Mrs Thatcher - is open to doubt.

That doubt will grow as, inevitably, the governance of the capital and the metropolitan area continues to demand the attention of politicians and public.

Concern over attitudes to US

From the Chairman of B.A.T. Industries and others

Sir, As chairman of three of Britain's largest companies, with major investment interests in the US as well as other parts of the world, may we express our grave concern about developments in this country which are beginning to look to our overseas colleagues and partners like a simple resurgence of anti-American prejudice which can do nothing but harm to this country's fundamental economic interests.

1. The Westland affair revealed the existence of a strong body of public opinion more concerned to voice its suspicion of the Americans than to find the best solution to a complex industrial problem.

2. The breakdown of negotiations with General Motors over the future of Leyland Trucks and Land-Rover showed that the body of opinion was strong enough to influence government action and thwart an important proposal for Anglo-American business co-operation which might have provided the best solution to another complex industrial problem.

3. The introduction in the recent Budget of a discriminatory tax on American depositary receipts is bound to be viewed in the US as a deliberate attempt to reduce US investment in British companies. It comes ineptly at the very time when we and others have made great efforts to build up strong US shareholdings to support the

growth of our own activities in the US.

All these movements are fraught with dangers. Freedom of investment must work in all directions. Well-judged international investment, whether by Americans in Britain or by Britons in America or elsewhere, is the most powerful of all engines for invigorating the world economy.

The Chancellor himself spoke with pride last week of Britain's £90 billion net overseas assets. He might also have mentioned that by the end of 1984 American direct investment holdings in this country had amounted to \$32 billion in preference to other parts of Europe where the money would have been just as welcome. We must not jeopardise this valuable flow of finance and its implications for jobs.

In the real interests of this country we therefore, most urgently, ask all those who are fuelling this anti-American prejudice, both in and out of Parliament and Government, to think again.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK SHEEHY, Chairman, B.A.T. Industries plc,
KENNETH DURHAM, Chairman, Unilever plc,
PETER WALTERS, Chairman, The British Petroleum Company plc,
B.A.T. Industries plc, Windsor House, 50 Victoria Street, SW1, March 26.

Children in care

From the Chairman of the Family Law Bar Association

Sir, The letters from Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, and others and from Lady Fairhall (March 19 at 21) are ripe for inaction. Of course in an ideal world we would have a radically different court structure for dealing with child care cases, and a radically reformed, and codified, law.

As it is, we are a long way from achieving any kind of consensus as to the form of family courts, and any new system would require finance and resources which seem unlikely to be made available in priority to other equally compelling needs. As to the law, although we now have a range of reforms proposed by the DHSS working party, when will they be effective? Meanwhile children suffer.

The Family Law Bar Association has over 600 members specialising in family law. We support the initiative of Mr Dennis Walters, MR, in putting forward a Bill which would make modest adjustments to the law at comparatively little cost and which, in our view, would be of practical benefit to a number of children.

I suspect that when your correspondents wrote they were unaware of the substantial amendments which had been proposed by Mr Walters and which were accepted in committee on March 19. These have the effect of limiting the need for magistrates' approval for the return home of a child in care to those children who are especially at risk of physical or moral harm.

The Bill does not "transfer responsibility" from the social workers to the magistrates. It imposes the need, in selected cases, for a second opinion. If the social workers are against return, then there is no return. It is only if they propose return that they need confirmation from the court. Their second opinion will be a support and a safeguard.

In any case, there is no justification for the assertion that magistrates would be more likely to send children home than social workers if required to consider the matter judicially, and no justification for the comment that the Bill would not have saved Jasmine Bedford's life. We cannot tell unless the Bill is tried.

Mr Walters' Bill would not hinder family courts or major law reform if and when those arrived. But while we wait, Sir, let us help those children as best we can within the limits of what is possible - and let us do it now.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT JOHNSON, Chairman, Family Law Bar Association,
Queen Elizabeth Building, Temple, EC4, March 21.

Budget reflection

From Dr Anne Vollmer

Sir, Until yesterday I was a potential user of the Business Expansion Scheme. I am trying to raise finance to start a nursing home in the Midlands to care for the elderly cognitively. As I understand it the business will no longer be eligible under the BES as it will have more than 50 per cent of its assets in the property.

While these exclusions appear to be well received by many, it leaves the genuine small businessman in a difficult position. There is no advantage in having a high asset-backed venture when it comes to seeking a traditional loan, if the individual is only able to put up a very small amount of personal capital. The risk remains high on account of meeting the repayments.

Might Mr Lawson therefore consider amending these new exclusions so that people with only a very small amount of capital may still be eligible? After all, this was surely the aim of the BES.

Yours faithfully,
ANNE VOLLMER, 9 Hatton Terrace, Hatton, Warwickshire, March 19.

In place of stress

From Mrs Cecily L. M. Tolson

Sir, The article by Pearce Wright and Craig Seton, "A guide to stress and how to get rid of it" (report, March 22), misses out the best solution of all - namely, the Christian faith.

'Parlous' status of Prayer Book

From Professor Basil Mitchell and others

Sir, We are writing as communicant members of the Church of England who have for some time been concerned about the deteriorating position of the Book of Common Prayer. Five or six years ago there were several vigorous and broadly based public protests on this matter, and in 1981 the bishops responded with a statement which recognized the need to keep the Prayer Book in the mainstream of Anglican worship and appeared to promise substantial improvements, especially in the theological colleges.

Since then many people, ourselves included, have felt it proper to refrain from further comment, not wishing to cast doubt on the seriousness of the reassurances given in 1981, and concerned to allow time within which improvements might occur.

However, nearly half a decade later, it is our impression that the position of the Book of Common Prayer in the parishes is much worse and in the theological colleges is almost as parlous as it ever was. Young priests are still arriving in the parishes with little or no experience of the Prayer Book, and in many places there is pressure against those congregations who still use it.

Clergy at their own gatherings appear to assume that the Alternative Service Book is, in fact, a replacement for the Book of Common Prayer, in spite of numerous public statements to the contrary (as, for example, in the recent edition of Public Worship in the Church of England).

We, therefore, wish to express our surprise and disappointment that the hopes aroused by the reassurances given have proved largely illusory. It is not just a matter of pastoral concern for the very large numbers who are devoted to the Prayer Book - though this, surely, should carry weight - but that, in facing the problems of the modern world, the Church needs to draw on the full measure of its spiritual resources.

Yours etc.
BASIL MITCHELL, RACHEL TRICKETT, MARY HESSE, DEREK BREWER, Oriole College, Oxford, March 21.

Scottish salmon

From Mr Jonathan Stansfeld

Sir, James Ferguson in his article of March 8 speaks of salmon resource management by neglect, especially in Scotland. The truth is that Scottish salmon have been managed with intelligence and skill and that our salmon stocks are still largely intact in spite of massive interception, a burgeoning grey seal population and other hazards.

In the early 1960s when nylon made the drift net so deadly, it was allowed to develop in England, while Scotland enforced a ban. In the early 1970s Scotland tightened the screw by banning any form of salmon gill or hang netting operated from a boat. The answer from England was to turn the drift nets over to the even more destructive monofilament, and double the catch.

In the 1980s Scotland has enacted further measures strengthening these regulations by extending them to shore operations. Meanwhile the English north-east drift net fishery has issued more licences with hundreds of endorsements and thereby increased their catch yet again.

Research has shown that 95 per cent of the catch in north-east England is made up of Scottish salmon intercepted on their return migration. The north-east fishermen make up almost three quarters of the total English catch, so at least two-thirds of the so-called English salmon catch has actually been produced in Scotland. James Ferguson is biting the very hand that feeds him.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. W. STANSFELD, 3 America Street, Montrose, Angus, March 12.

Corfe Castle

From the Director-General of the National Trust

Sir, The National Trust shares the concern of Mr Faulkner and other correspondents (March 20) for the conservation of Corfe Castle, village and surrounding landscape. We recognise the dangers posed by intensive visiting and certainly have no intention of "redeveloping" the village.

We believe the route of the proposed by-pass is the key issue. The County Council has itself collected a comprehensive body of data and opinions (including those of the Trust) on the several options available. We doubt whether an independent study at this stage would further illuminate the problem. What is needed is a conclusion based upon impartial assessment of the facts and arguments assembled.

In these circumstances the Trust would urge the Secretary of State to call in the proposals in order that a public enquiry can be held as soon as possible, and a decision reached which takes account of all the national and local considerations.

Yours etc.
ANGUS STIRLING, Director-General, The National Trust, 36 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1, March 25.

Finding a fake

From Mr Roy Alderson

Sir, I enjoyed Mr Rainford's letter in today's Times. I pay myself the notional sum of £4 an hour. A cleaner gets £3 an hour. I then stand back from what I have painted and ponder how much I can get for the painting - £4, £40, £400 or £4,000?

Here is the nub of what every artist asks himself. Yours faithfully,
ROY ALDERSON, 37 Smith Terrace, SW3, March 18.

At school in England

From Mrs Barbara Darowska

Sir, I am sure that the Polish community would wish to be "included out" from Professor Bilko Parikh's list of minorities allegedly disadvantaged in English schools (report, March 11). Our experience, the longest of all on his list, is quite different.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

growth of our own activities in the US.

All these movements are fraught with dangers. Freedom of investment must work in all directions. Well-judged international investment, whether by Americans in Britain or by Britons in America or elsewhere, is the most powerful of all engines for invigorating the world economy.

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Those who give their lives to God include giving up their stresses to him. They receive in return the peace that passes all understanding.

Yours faithfully,
CECILY L. M. TOLSON, 45 Northumberland Road, Barnet, Hertfordshire, March 19.

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Since then many people, ourselves included, have felt it proper to refrain from further comment, not wishing to cast doubt on the seriousness of the reassurances given in 1981, and concerned to allow time within which improvements might occur.

However, nearly half a decade later, it is our impression that the position of the Book of Common Prayer in the parishes is much worse and in the theological colleges is almost as parlous as it ever was. Young priests are still arriving in the parishes with little or no experience of the Prayer Book, and in many places there is pressure against those congregations who still use it.

Clergy at their own gatherings appear to assume that the Alternative Service Book is, in fact, a replacement for the Book of Common Prayer, in spite of numerous public statements to the contrary (as, for example, in the recent edition of Public Worship in the Church of England).

We, therefore, wish to express our surprise and disappointment that the hopes aroused by the reassurances given have proved largely illusory. It is not just a matter of pastoral concern for the very large numbers who are devoted to the Prayer Book - though this, surely, should carry weight - but that, in facing the problems of the modern world, the Church needs to draw on the full measure of its spiritual resources.

Yours etc.
BASIL MITCHELL, RACHEL TRICKETT, MARY HESSE, DEREK BREWER, Oriole College, Oxford, March 21.

Scottish salmon

From Mr Jonathan Stansfeld

Sir, James Ferguson in his article of March 8 speaks of salmon resource management by neglect, especially in Scotland. The truth is that Scottish salmon have been managed with intelligence and skill and that our salmon stocks are still largely intact in spite of massive interception, a burgeoning grey seal population and other hazards.

In the early 1960s when nylon made the drift net so deadly, it was allowed to develop in England, while Scotland enforced a ban. In the early 1970s Scotland tightened the screw by banning any form of salmon gill or hang netting operated from a boat. The answer from England was to turn the drift nets over to the even more destructive monofilament, and double the catch.

In the 1980s Scotland has enacted further measures strengthening these regulations by extending them to shore operations. Meanwhile the English north-east drift net fishery has issued more licences with hundreds of endorsements and thereby increased their catch yet again.

Research has shown that 95 per cent of the catch in north-east England is made up of Scottish salmon intercepted on their return migration. The north-east fishermen make up almost three quarters of the total English catch, so at least two-thirds of the so-called English salmon catch has actually been produced in Scotland. James Ferguson is biting the very hand that feeds him.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. W. STANSFELD, 3 America Street, Montrose, Angus, March 12.

Corfe Castle

From the Director-General of the National Trust

Sir, The National Trust shares the concern of Mr Faulkner and other correspondents (March 20) for the conservation of Corfe Castle, village and surrounding landscape. We recognise the dangers posed by intensive visiting and certainly have no intention of "redeveloping" the village.

We believe the route of the proposed by-pass is the key issue. The County Council has itself collected a comprehensive body of data and opinions (including those of the Trust) on the several options available. We doubt whether an independent study at this stage would further illuminate the problem. What is needed is a conclusion based upon impartial assessment of the facts and arguments assembled.

In these circumstances the Trust would urge the Secretary of State to call in the proposals in order that a public enquiry can be held as soon as possible, and a decision reached which takes account of all the national and local considerations.

Yours etc.
ANGUS STIRLING, Director-General, The National Trust, 36 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1, March 25.

Finding a fake

From Mr Roy Alderson

Sir, I enjoyed Mr Rainford's letter in today's Times. I pay myself the notional sum of £4 an hour. A cleaner gets £3 an hour. I then stand back from what I have painted and ponder how much I can get for the painting - £4, £40, £400 or £4,000?

Here is the nub of what every artist asks himself. Yours faithfully,
ROY ALDERSON, 37 Smith Terrace, SW3, March 18.

At school in England

From Mrs Barbara Darowska

Sir, I am sure that the Polish community would wish to be "included out" from Professor Bilko Parikh's list of minorities allegedly disadvantaged in English schools (report, March 11). Our experience, the longest of all on his list, is quite different.

ON THIS DAY

March 28 1886

An article about the Riviera by Alexander Shand, of two previous ones appeared on February 19 and 20, 1885. The franc was then worth about 4p.

LETTERS FROM THE RIVIERA

III-MONTE CARLO. There may be differences of opinion as to the eligibility as a place of residence, but there can hardly be a question that Monte Carlo is the most lovely look in all the Western Riviera. There is no nobler promenade than the circular sweep of terrace in front of the Casino.

It was to this southern Eden that the late M. Blanc made an exodus with his croupiers, his tables, and his money chest, when he received notice to quit the North in the renaissance of German morality. The speculation must at first have seemed a risky one to a gentleman accustomed "to play upon velvet."



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 27. The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh arrived at Chichester Station in the Royal Train this morning and were received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for West Sussex (Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk).

Princess Anne will open the Housing and Hostel Scheme for disabled people at Eastleigh run by the Region Housing Association and Hampshire County Council on April 30 and later will open a day centre for the physically handicapped at Cosham, Hampshire. In the evening, as President of the Save the Children Fund, she will attend a gala performance of La Cage aux Folles at the Palladium Theatre, in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund (children's section) and the Save the Children Fund.

The Duke of Gloucester, as Ranger, will visit Epping Forest on April 15. In the evening, as President of the British Consultants Bureau, he will attend a reception given by Freeman, Fox and Partners at the Army and Navy Club.

The Duke of Gloucester will visit goldsmiths' workshops in Hatton Garden and Old Street on April 16.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron of BLISS (Baby Life Support Systems), will attend a reception to launch a new book, Special Care Babies, at the Stock Exchange on April 16.

Queen Ingrid of Denmark celebrates her birthday today.

A memorial service for Mr Tom Shefford will be held in Lincoln's Inn Chapel on Tuesday, May 6, at 5pm.

Mr T. Hobbs and Miss S.J. Cusell

The engagement is announced between Timothy, son of Colonel and Mrs B.L. Hobbs, of Warminster, Wiltshire, and Sandra, daughter of Mr and Mrs E.J. Cusell, of Weston Rhyn, Shropshire.

Mr P.D.R. Landale and Miss S.J. Younger

The engagement is announced between Peter, eldest son of Mr and Mrs David Landale, of Dalswinton, Dumfries, and Sarah, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs David Younger, of Broughton, Peeblesshire.

Mr S.J.R. Thomas and Miss S.A. James

The engagement is announced between Simon, youngest son of Mr and Mrs J. Gardiner, of Pevensey Bay, Sussex, and Shona, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs T.H. James, of Dunchill, Sussex.

Mr J.E.C. Grange and Miss C. Ellison

The engagement is announced between Jonathan, eldest son of Mr and Mrs David Grange, of Malmesbury, Wiltshire, and Claudia, daughter of Mr John Ellison and Mrs Kitten Ellison, of Bermuda.

Mr M.L.D. Booth and Miss M.J. Biggs

The engagement is announced between Michael, elder son of Mr and Mrs P.A. Booth, of Marion, Blackpool, Lancashire, and Mary, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs D.E. Biggs, of Keston, Kent.

Mr O.V.A. Boucher and Miss J.A. Jones

The engagement is announced between Oliver, younger son of Mr and Mrs P.A. Boucher, of Painswick, Gloucestershire, and Jennifer, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs John J. Jones, of Montreal, Quebec.

Dr R.H. Hall and Miss L.J.W. Jack

The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Dr J.G. and Dr A.M. Hall, of Edinburgh, and Lucinda, eldest son of Lieutenant-Colonel J.J. Jack, retd, of Newnham Green, Hampshire, and Mrs G.A. Prioleau, of Kingstone Lisle, Oxfordshire.

Science report

Water plants lured back to Broad

By Gareth Huw Davies

Scientists have devised a simple strategy which could lead to the re-establishment of aquatic plant communities in the Norfolk Broads, reversing the trend which has largely cleared the now heavily polluted waters of natural vegetation over the past 30 years.

A team from the East Anglia University has been building artificial refuges this month in Hoveton Great Broad, on the River Bure, for the minute creatures that graze on the algal plankton (phytoplankton) now dominating most of the 50 shallow broads.

The refuges are made of bundles of twigs, brushwood, netting suspended in the water and polypropylene rope "plants" floating up from the bottom. The theory is that crustacea, particularly water fleas (Cladocera), will colonize the refuges in a steady large numbers to clear the water of the phytoplankton, and catalyse a switch to the state where plants will recolonize the water. Algal development early in the season prevents the growth of aquatic plants by shading them.

Because most of the surface vegetation has disappeared, the crustacea which graze on the phytoplankton cannot sur-



Katerina Lycheva, the 11-year-old Soviet girl who is touring the United States, holds peace doves signed by pupils during a visit to a school in Washington.

Birthdays today

The Right Rev Dr C.K.N. Bardsley, 79; Mr Dirk Bogarde, 65; Majorie Countess of Brecknock, 86; the Hon George Bruce, 56; Professor Sir John Butterfield, 66; Mr Robert Harris, 86; Mr Peter Holwell, 50; Lord Hutchinson of Lullington, QC, 71; Mr Frank Judd, 51; Mr Neil Kinnoch, MP, 44; Mr Raymond Lister, 67; Mr Clifford Mollison, 89; Mr Martin Neary, 46; Mr Michael Parkinson, 51; Professor Merton Sandler, 60; Lord Shaughnessy, 64; Sir John Stephenson, 76; Mr Richard Stigoe, 43.

Moreton Hall, Shropshire

The following awards have been made as a result of the scholarship examination: Major academic scholarships: Emma Deane (St Andrew's School, Newcastle), 2,000; Peter White (Cove Court School, Wiltshire), 1,500; Music scholarships: J.E. School (St Andrew's School, Newcastle), 500; J.L. School (St Andrew's School, Newcastle), 500; J.M. School (St Andrew's School, Newcastle), 500.

Memorial service

Mr C. Graham-Dixon. A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Charles Graham-Dixon, QC, was held in the Medical School and Hospital Chapel, Charing Cross Hospital, yesterday. The Rev Lynn Phillips officiated. Miss Kathryn Stanley and Sir Kirby Laing read the lessons. Mr Francis Graham-Dixon and Mr Andrew Graham-Dixon, grandsons, read from the works of James Boswell and Andrew Marvell. Professor T.W. Genister, Dean of Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School, gave an address.

Appointments

Latest appointments include: Mr A. Rowe, on promotion to senior grade, as Assistant Under-Secretary of State (Africa) from April 1, supervising the Central African Department, Commonwealth East African Department, Overseas Policy Adviser, Southern African Department, and West African Department, in succession to Mr J.R. Johnson.

Funeral service

Mrs L.E.R. Bentall. The funeral service for Mrs Rowan Bentall took place on Tuesday, March 25, at St Mary's Church, Broughton, Hampshire. The Rev David Howe, rector, officiated. Mr Edward Bentall, son, and Mrs Nicholas Noel-Tod, daughter, were present. The burial took place at the family grave at Dorking.

History prize

The Royal Historical Society has awarded the Whitfield Prize for 1985 to Dr K.D.M. Stell, a lecturer in English local history at Leicester University, for his book, Annals of the Labouring Poor (Cambridge University Press).

Luncheon

Lord's Taverners. Mr Ronald Gerard was host at a luncheon given by the Lord's Taverners to the English Schools' Cricket Association at 28 South Street, London, W1, yesterday. Those present were: Mr David Frost, Mr Stuart Duggan, Mr Michael Duggan, Mr John Duggan, Mr Robert Duggan, Mr Edward Jackson, Mr Tim Robinson, Mr Christopher Robinson, Mr Tom Huxter and Mr Bernard Brett.

Latest wills

Sir Harry Neil Martens, of 10, Dorsal Road, Minister for Overseas Development, 1979-1983, left estate valued at £301,468 net. Mr Guy Piers Le Gendre, of 10, Dorsal Road, left £1,967,149 net. Dorothy Mary Perceval, of Kensington, London, left £533,479 net. She left £20,000 each to Eton College, the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, and the King Edward VII Hospital for Officers.

Professor John Patrick Micklethwait Brennan, of Kew Gardens, Surrey, director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, 1976-1981, left £119,611 net. Mrs Evelyn Ethel Case, of Cheam, Surrey, left £202,957 net. She left her entire estate equally between the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, the Richard Dimbleby Cancer Fund, and the Friends of the Animals League, Biggin Hill. Other estates include: Flood, Nora Ethna Mary, of Waltham, East Sussex, £536,150 net; Mrs Elizabeth Ann Orledge, of Loughborough, £385,821 net; Mussett, Mr David, of Bickley, Kent, £460,515 net.

Marriages

M.J. Cohen and Miss A.F. Courage. The marriage took place quietly in Paris on Friday, March 21, 1986, between M. Jacques Cohen and Miss Annabel Courage, of 8 Rue Fondary, Paris, 75015, France.

Marriages

Mr E.F. St. H. Jones and Miss S.G. Robinson. The marriage took place in Lynmouth, North Devon, on Tuesday, March 18, between Mr Hugo Francis St. Helier Jones, of Lynmouth, North Devon, and Mrs Sonia Gay Johnstone, of Lynmouth, North Devon.

Marriages

Mr H.J. Leslie and Miss V. Gibson. The marriage has taken place quietly in Horsham, West Sussex, of Mr John Leslie, son of Mr and Mrs Percy Leslie, of London, and Miss Valerie Gibson, daughter of Mr and Mrs James Gibson, of Liverpool.

Marriages

Dr E.A. Shiner and Miss J. Sisson. The marriage took place on Friday, March 21, 1986, in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, between Dr Roger A. Shiner, of Edmonton, and Miss Janet Sisson, of Glasgow.

Marriages

The marriage took place in London, March 21, 1986, between Dr Roger A. Shiner, of Edmonton, and Miss Janet Sisson, of Glasgow.

Auction launches drive on hardwood production

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

A national hardwood timber auction, claimed to be the first in Britain, is to be launched this year to encourage domestic production and improve marketing. The first auction will be held at the National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, on October 22.

The auction is being organized by Bidwells, a Cambridge firm of chartered surveyors, with the support of the Forestry Commission, Timber Growers UK, and the British Timber Merchants Association. Mr Ninian Sanders, Bidwells' partner responsible for forestry, says that the auction will cut costs for buyers and improve returns for sellers.

University news

Edinburgh. The name of Professor Emeritus Ralph Leigh, who is to receive an honorary D.Lit., was misspelled in our University news column published on March 13. Dr N. Kreitzman, director of the MRC's unit for epidemiological studies in psychiatry at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital, and Dr R.M. Gaze, head of the MRC's neural development and regeneration group at the university's department of zoology, to be honorary professors of the university.

OBITUARY

MISS ELISABETH BARKER

Journalist, historian and public servant

Elisabeth Barker, who died on March 19 at the age of 75, had a varied career as a journalist, public servant, and writer on historical subjects. She was particularly noted for her books on the Balkans and for her analyses of various aspects of Britain's position in the wartime and post-war world.

She was born at Oxford on March 22, 1910, the daughter of Ernest and Emily Barker. Her father, then fellow and tutor of St John's College, moved to London in 1920 as principal of Kings College, and Elisabeth, whose intelligence was already marked, went to St Paul's School as a scholar in 1923.

From there she won a major scholarship in 1927 to Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, where, like her father, she read modern languages. Uncertain what to do next, she went out to Vienna in the summer of 1932 to join her brother Arthur, then The Times correspondent there.

At first a visitor, she became very much more. Travelling all over Eastern Europe, she developed a wide knowledge of its countries, especially the Balkans, and an equal affection for them. She had found her métier.

In 1934, back in London, she joined the BBC, working in the news library and later, when war became imminent, as a sub-editor in overseas news. One of her more unusual tasks there was to lead General de Gaulle to the microphone on June 18, 1940, when he delivered his historic broadcast.

Late in 1941, her knowledge of South-eastern Europe was in great demand, and she left the BBC to join the Foreign Office political intelligence department (later political and economic), as assistant to the Balkan regional director, Ralph Murray, whom she succeeded in 1943.

In August 1945, she became Reuters correspondent in the Balkans. The clarity and insight of her dispatches and her capacity to receive her sympathy and help, she was devoted to her family, who turned to her for advice and returned it with love and admiration.

She is survived by her daughter and five grandchildren.

CHARLES STARRETT

Charles Starrett, one of the cinema's leading cowboy stars in the heyday of the low budget Western, died in California on March 22 at the age of 82.

Born in Athol, Massachusetts, on March 28, 1903, he made his first screen appearance while a student at Dartmouth College, playing a footballer in the 1926 Richard Dix film, The Quarterback.

After graduating, he acted in stock companies in Cincinnati and Indianapolis and had supporting parts on Broadway.

His film career proper began in 1930, when he was put under contract by Paramount. Handsome and athletic, he played mainly romantic leads until he was signed by Columbia to be their principal cowboy star in 1936. With his

JUDGE SIR THOMAS WILLIAMS

David Crouch, MP, writes: As a Conservative Member of Parliament, may I be permitted to add to your obituary of March 3, as one who saw Tom Williams from the other side of the House?

He was the perfect example of a good House of Commons man, fearless in his views, absolutely honest and always willing to listen to others.

As Chairman of the Select Committee on Procedure, he recommended the establishment of departmental select committees. The effect of this was to shift the balance of advantage between Parliament and Government in favour of Parliament and the back benches, and this was

Births, Deaths and In Memoriam

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GILLMAN - On March 20th, to Mervin and John, a daughter, stillborn. MACKLACHLAN - On March 18th, at The John Radcliffe Hospital, to Margaret (nee Strimling) and Alexander, a son, James Tobias. PATTON - On March 19th at the Oakville Hospital, Toronto, to Janet (nee Aynsli) and Anthony, a son, James Lauderdale.

ROSE - Michael, On March 20th, peacefully at his home, Cargen House, 10, Dorsal Road, London, W1, aged 78. H.M. Foreign Service, 1942-1945. Married April 1st at 2.30pm at Parish Church, Richmond, Surrey, to Miss Clare, daughter of Mr and Mrs G. Barker, 40 Wantage Rd., Didcot, Oxon.

TURNBULL - On 23rd March 1986, suddenly at his home a few days after his 78th birthday, Patrick Edward Xenophon Turnbull, M.C., soldier and author, beloved husband of Lisa, and dear father of Dominic and Giles. Enquiries to R & H Barker, 40 Wantage Rd., Didcot, Oxon.

ALFORD - On 26th March, to Kim and John, a daughter, Kerry. BLANCHARD - On 22nd March 1986, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Alan and Alfred, a son. COUGHMAN - On March 17th to Colin and Irene, a daughter, Jessica Nicole.

MACLACHLAN - On March 18th, at The John Radcliffe Hospital, to Margaret (nee Strimling) and Alexander, a son, James Tobias. PATTON - On March 19th at the Oakville Hospital, Toronto, to Janet (nee Aynsli) and Anthony, a son, James Lauderdale.

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THE ARTS

Television Superior market forces

The fraught stratosphere where international politics jostles high technology gave TV Eye (Thames) the setting for Uncle Sam's Law, a brief examination of the way that American computer giants manipulate Cold War paranoia in order to thwart our "sunrise" industry's commercial ambitions in Eastern Europe.

Since most technological innovation originates from across the Atlantic, it would be all the more remarkable if America did not do everything in its power to maintain economic hegemony. This report's main thrust was to point up the absurdity of American courts imposing fines on British companies who have not transgressed British law.

Governmental folly on an epic, Swiftian scale was the theme of the 40 minutes documentary Nazi! (BBC2), which told the deliciously ridiculous story of the great peanut scandal of the late 1940s, when the Minister of Food, John Strachey (Eton, Oxford, Karl Marx), spent £30 million on a madcap scheme to cultivate a large, arid chunk of Tanganyika, pitifully described as "miles upon miles of damn all".

Contemporary footage of Irish navvies bulldozing trees on two bottles of South African brandy per day per man was complemented by modern interviews with survivors of the Nat Army, whose anecdotes have been well polished over four decades in clubhouses and at bridge parties. One was left with the impression that the whole farrago may after all have been worthwhile in giving thousands of cits a well-earned sultan and the rest of the nation a jolly good laugh.

Martin Cropper

Less than 30 years after his death Sacha Guitry has new productions of three of his comedies playing in three different Paris theatres: Le Veilleur de nuit (Théâtre 13), Faisons Un Rêve (Saint-Georges) and La Prise de Berg-op-Zoom (Michodière). Not by the design of the producers, all three pieces date from the same period - 1911 to 1914 - when Guitry was in his late twenties, and all revolve around variations of the triangle, infernal. Seen individually, there are two successes and a miss.

The most remarkable of the three is Le Veilleur de nuit, which inexplicably has never been revived since its Paris première 75 years ago. Skillfully directed by Jacques Nerson, its urbane vivacity, biting wit and emotional manipulations have lost none of their validity.

A young artist is commissioned to paint a mural in the home of a young woman, whose comfortable livelihood is derived via the somewhat mechanical attentions of an older, richer man. As much by his verbal dexterity as the artist seduces his patroness. On discovering this "love" affair, the older man's emotional indifference flares into jealousy. He reasons, however, that at his age it is wiser to accommodate one young man you know rather than be tormented by visions of those you do not.

The role of the artist was tailored by Guitry for himself. Fabrice Luchini nimbly steps into the master's shoes and, although he allows Guitry's ghost to hover in the wings, he never lets it venture on stage. Luchini sharpens up the wit and adds a rawness which one

Manic touch of regional promise

No Surrender (15) Odeon Haymarket

The Girl in the Picture (15) Cannon Haymarket

D.A.R.Y.L. (PG) Cannon Panton Street

The best British comedy has always been regional (cf. Gracie Fields, George Formby, Norman Evans, Old Mother Riley), and a new decentralization is a promising sign. Following Letter to Breznev, Liverpool now provides cast and setting for No Surrender. Directed by Peter Smith, who has worked only for television since his notable debut with A Private Enterprise 12 years ago, this is also the first feature film scripted by Alan Bleasdale, who wrote the 1983 television series Boys from the Black Stuff.

No Surrender is strictly horror comic - the nightmare of the new manager of a sleazy Liverpool club, who finds not only that the proprietor is a mobster and the acts are disasters but that the outgoing management has double-booked the club to the senior citizen members both of the local Orange Club and of the Irish Catholic community.

The leader of the Orange boys is Billy the Beast, who has in tow an aged fugitive Ulster gunman. The self-appointed boss of the Catholics is a blind old boxer, fighting mad and determined to use the occasion to settle a lifetime of old scores with Billy. As the night wears on and the drink swills all the other crippled ancients and their formidable womenfolk start spoiling for the long-forgotten thrill of a punch-up, the escalating tensions are not diminished by the unexpected irruption of a party of lunatic geriatrics, stranded in their ambulance, and a couple of police raids.

These crazy old-people suit the world they inhabit. The Charleston Club may be hell, but outside is worse: inner-city devastation, with identical high-rises (a police raid unfortunately hit understandably strikes Attlee Heights in mistake for Gaitskell Heights) and bleak wastelands where muggers roam and marauding infants disintegrate parked cars unless they are paid protection money.

With a murder, a death from heart failure, bloody torture in the back room, fights with fists and bottles, and all the venom of sectarian hatred, the comedy tends to a darker shade of black; but Peter Smith creditably manages the abrupt shifts of mood from farcical to deadly. Sometimes through Bleasdale's stylized, one-liner repartee seems at odds with the



Comedy in the characterization: James Ellis's demented blind pugilist Billy the Beast, with Michael Ripper as Bonnaparte, his aged delinquent henchman, in No Surrender

absurd horror of the ritual hostilities ("They never left the playground"), says one of the women, who tend to be more mature and less romantic than their men about sex and sets).

The best part of the comedy is the characterization. Michael Angelis as the manager, and Bernard Hill as the bouncer whose tough exterior conceals an infantile intellect, bring off the difficult feat of a poker-faced double act. Ray McAnally's manic blind pugilist, Avis Hunnage, J.G. Devlin, Marjorie Sudell, John Turner and Michael Ripper head the bizarre cast of aged delinquents, and Joanne Whalley, here playing a waifish trollop who cooks for the club and has aspirations as a pop singer, reveals a larger talent with every performance.

The Girl in the Picture, directed and written by Cary Parker, is a comedy of the Glasgow school, deeply (and not unprofitably) influenced by Bill Forsyth, whose star from Gregory's Girl, John Gordon-Sinclair, is the lead. He plays an amiable photographer, earning his living with weddings and babies, but sporadically working on the portfolio which he hopes will one day get his pictures into the glossies. He is mean while tormented by the problem of whether he should replace the girl who has just walked out on him or try to win her back. The final solution is

Cinema

reunion, and the philosophical conclusion that, even if they are doomed to be miserable together, he would rather be miserable with her than with anyone else. Such is love.

It has a lot of charm, but not much momentum. The dialogue has the non seq, oddity of the Forsyth scripts, and David McKay, as the hero's colleague in the photographers' shop, handles it with the same offhand dexterity as Gordon-Sinclair himself. There is an engaging chorus of self-absorbed eccentrics; and Gordon-Sinclair has some gentle comic scenes, including a heavy hangover after a night with a junkie lady. But the content is finally too thin to support a feature film, and the running gags are run to exhaustion long before the end.

Hollywood has colonized the minds of the young in a great part of the world. The consolation in this is that Hollywood films do not embody a unified American principle or world view. Sylvester Stallone and Chuck Norris pictures may promote Second Cold War attitudes; but alongside, often in the most unsuspected pictures, contrary, sceptical, subversive views still find expression, questioning the accepted political structures; the right of force, the establishment's secret agencies, the military autocracy, the subjection of man to machine. The subversives, it is true, are

generally very small voices, at least in comparison with Rocky and Rombio. D.A.R.Y.L. is a quaint little Hollywood fable in which the unqualified villains are the Pentagon, with its sinister secret research establishments, and a subservient police force. Having expended billions developing a Data Analyzing Robot Youth Lifeform (D.A.R.Y.L.), the appalled military scientists discover that what they have created is - a boy. This dangerous thing escapes, lands among real people, and rapidly learns human emotions and social behaviour. The rest of the story is a battle between the establishment, which uses all its force trying to destroy the creature which has passed beyond their control, and the good, plain people who claim the new human as one of their own.

Directed by Simon Wincer from a script by David Ambrose, Allan Scott and Jeffrey Ellis, D.A.R.Y.L. tends to sacrifice the sharper points it might have made in favour of small-town domestic drama. Mary Beth Hurt and Michael McKean, however, bring genuine charm to the roles of D.A.R.Y.L.'s adoptive parents, and Barret Oliver is drily touching as the robot child, whose transition to humanity does not impair his special kinship with machines.

David Robinson

London theatre One bright star

Judy Strand

The essence of the real-life Judy Garland was contained in the yearning vibrato of her voice, and the awkward, throaty desperation of her manner. Although she was technically at her best as a teenage thoroughbred, crooning sweetly at Mickey Rooney, the ruinous temperamental chaos of her life lent her later work an extraordinary broken intensity. In A Star is Born, opposite James Mason, she rhapsodizes at the edge of exhaustion, and there is a suicidal burn in her hectic showbiz panache.

Terry Wale's new musical, Judy, goes glibly through the backstage horror-story of her career, joining the songs together with routine Hollywood pastiche, but again, and again, the show is kicked into life by the belting confidence of its star. Lesley Mackie's Judy is a raw, gutsy heart-breaker, with a big, lived-in voice. She puts muscle and flamboyance into "Born in a Truck" and "The Man Who Got Away" and, when she is singing, you are prepared to ignore the production's lustreless melodrama and you accept the evening as a piece of

splendid nostalgic cabaret. Finally, Ms Mackie's talent is closer to the theatre-filling bravura of Garland's daughter, Liza Minnelli, than Judy's trembling sincerity.

During the first half of the show there is too much bad, B-movie exposition, with the supporting cast giving colourless performances in underwritten and backneyed material, and the procession of songs starts to seem predictable and merely slick. But by the interval the band, previously hidden away in the orchestra pit, has appeared on stage, and in the lighter and more compressed second half the music exerts an uncanny emotive grip while Ms Mackie's performance deepens into a broad, full-blooded pathos.

As the drugged-out dying star she has a range and accuracy which outstrips the hollow dialogue and justifies John David's solid but unimaginative production. Judy is not much of a musical. It is an anthology of songs with some biographical bits and pieces to sew them together. Lesley Mackie breathes the greatest splendour of her subject, and she carries the evening.

Andrew Rissik

Operetta The Merry Widow Coliseum

The Widow is not Merry. On the face of it, it seemed a good idea to get Ian Judge to restage Colin Graham's original production. It was he, after all, who applied the Broadway touch to Faust; and by the same token it was in theory, a cunning ploy to commission a zippy new translation from New York City Opera's Sheldon Harnick. Lehar did, after all, give Broadway its cue in his day.

Sure enough, the cumbersome old art nouveau designs, black on scarlet and heliotrope, are given a lift by the long, straight chorus-lines and the opening freezes which hurt into knees-up choreography in best RSC tradition. Stunning visual use is made, too, of the long staircase, reinforcing the bold linear movement. Lehar, though, cannot live by the eye alone. What is more, this sort of visual panache puts considerable pressure on the principals to substantiate things musically; and it is here that this revival falls down.

English National Opera

were simply unlucky to have Valerie Masterson indisposed on their first night. Penelope Mackay, temporarily standing in, can barely be heard from where Judge places her at the top of the staircase for her two crucial entries. And, with so much to concentrate on physically, this Glavari was understandably ill at ease, mincing her way, rather than dancing, through the vocal line.

Things are made no easier by Herbert Prikopa's direction from the pit. Even when Alan Opie, an unusually bearish and boorish Danilo, makes an effort, as he does commendably often, to sweep the score alone, Prikopa is content merely to follow. His reluctance ever to give a lead, or to lighten the step, sounds complacent at best, and at worst reminiscent of whipped cream which has sunk far too deep in the hot chocolate.

Valenciense, who can so often upstage the Widow, certainly not only steals, but creates, the limelight. Lesley Garter's is a radiant performance, hugging Lehar's music to herself as no one else seems willing to. Her husband, Zeta, responds in kind: Eric Shilling proves himself in every way a worthier suitor than Adrian Martin's over-tense Camille.

Hilary Finch

Rock Hüsker Dü Electric Ballroom

Hüsker Dü, a guitar trio from Minneapolis, caused something of a stir in the British music Press last year, and, after seven years of independent label recordings, secured a major contract with Warner's and now have a modest hit with their album Candy Apple Grey.

While no act could match the ludicrous hyperbole so lightly employed by many music-paper writers, this seemed a rather tame performance even when judged by the group's previous London appearances. For, while Hüsker Dü have come up with an unusual formula by marrying the mellow tunes of the Midwest to the sounds of hardcore thrash metal, this odd hybrid depends on extremes of energy that were not evident on this occasion.

Wearing drab black T-shirts, they wandered on stage and stood around listlessly,

before whipping through the first three songs in little more than six minutes. A four-second pause before the next batch confirmed their blue-print for high-energy stagecraft.

Boh Mould lolloped about, strumming intrinsically pretty chord-sequences at a grossly overloaded volume, while the moustachioed Greg Norton bashed out inaudible bass parts and hopped up and down every so often. Little could be heard of Grant Hart's drumming apart from the snare beat keeping erratic time through the din. Hart also vocal parts, assisted by Mould, and again the bawling delivery and croaked harmonies added a deliberate counterweight to the otherwise attractive melodies.

For all the noise and pace, they lacked the genuine intensity which they can achieve. Having found success with a live act that pushes them so close to the limits of physical endurance, they are already struggling to maintain their performance at that level.

David Sinclair

Royal Philharmonic Society concert Marvellous representation of saintly wonders

BBCSO/Ozawa Festival Hall/Radio 3

Whatever else may be said of Messiaen's opera Saint François d'Assise, the scale of its daring takes the breath away, not only because it requires colossal forces and lasts as long as Götterdämmerung but perhaps more particularly because it takes on, if only implicitly, a problem central to Messiaen's art: that of the relation between religious revelation and everyday experience.

Most of his previous works had been granted the holy gift of indifference to the world. They are musical stained-glass windows, using all the resources of music to paint pictures of the most marvellous stories and promises of the New Testament - the spendour of resurrected existence, the brilliant glory of the Transfigured Christ, the preciousness of the Incarnation. They do not ask questions. In turning to the story of St François, however, Messiaen faces himself with a man who did ask questions. Born in an age when new ideas of individual responsibility were surfacing and requiring people to do something about God, François took the simple but severe and absolute step of just following his example.

It is true that Messiaen treats the subject as a miracle story and shows no interest in François as a person. The three scenes given in Wednesday's Royal Philharmonic Society concert view the wonders of the saint's reported life across the marvels of the composer's musical inventory, so that, for instance, a huge chorus jabs out Christ's words "I am the Alpha and the Omega" to a bird-scribble last heard in Oiseaux exotiques, or a healed leper dances to a movement from the Turangalila-symphonie, or characters sing in the modal chant of the early songs.

Nevertheless, there is the temptation to understand Saint François as the story of a real man, and to wonder what the thing means; for only in comparatively rare passages, notably in the bugly scored C major crescendo of the close, does Messiaen dazzle the senses and silence doubt. The more normal method of the opera is to proceed slowly, illustrating each phrase with

swoops of colour-harmony and fantastic bird-calls, immense chords and some new effects, such as the weird low rattling tones of the ondes martenot.

If the opera is to work as hagiography, then it would need to be seen, and preferably in a manner that took it as far as possible from naturalism. Anything less is bound to raise a question of how one may accept so vast and undoubling an affirmation of spiritual truth, though at least there was no worry about the musical truth of a positive, large and brilliant performance conducted by Seiji Ozawa without a score.

Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau was a giant of solemn authority as St François and Maria Fausta Gallamini sang out clearly and purely as the angel; Kenneth Riegel repeated his anguished leper from the Paris première of two years ago.

Paul Griffiths



Paris, practically by coincidence, is staging a mini-festival of the work of Sacha Guitry (above). Diane Hill reports

Urbane vivacity

can imagine was missing in the original. Yasmine Reza as the young woman and Marc Dudoignon as the older man form the remaining, beautifully crafted, corners of the triangle.

By contrast La Prise de Berg-op-Zoom wallows in the shallows. Premiered in 1912, a year after Le Veilleur, it was written in response to an intellectual challenge. Guitry was persuaded that he had the makings of a vaudeville writer. The result is an excess of bourgeois "carying-on", from a husband (Daniel Prévost) who fears the discovery that he has seduced a minor, to a commissioner of police (Robert Lamoureux) who uses his status to the ends of stealing away the wife (Yolande Folliot). The commissioner of police is again a Guitry tailor-made, styled when he was 27. Lamoureux, through no fault of his own, is not a shoddy plot, twittering dialogue and token showing of expensive underwear are dressed with the meticulousness of a costume museum-piece. Guitry cannot, however, be entirely held to blame. The original text has been hacked at, rather than adapted, by the director Jean Meyer.

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1390.0 (+9.8) FT-SE 100 1668.8 (+14.9) USM (Datastream) 117.46 (+0.27)

THE POUND

US Dollar 1.4820 (+0.0078) W German mark 3.4538 (+0.0210) Trade-weighted 76.3 (+0.3)

MARKET REPORT

The bulls stay in command

Stock markets ended the long three-week account in optimistic mood. Wall Street's 32-point advance overnight, coupled with another Japanese discount rate cut and the lessening tension in the Middle East, contributed to the view that the bull market had some way to run.

Money market sources suggested a 9/8 per cent base rate by mid-June. This talk boosted government stocks, which closed more than 1/8 higher, additionally helped by a rise of 1/4 points in the US log bond and the continued strength of sterling.

The demand enabled the Government Broker to exhaust the remaining supplies of the Treasury 8 per cent 2002/06 stock issued last Friday. The market is again taking their cue from Wall Street, equities opened with a flourish but subsequent end-account profit-taking and lack of follow-through demand soon had prices slipping back.

However, the FT-30 index held a modest rise, up 9.6 points at 1390, and so did the FTSE-100, up 14.9 at 1668.8, and there were signs that investors were hoping for the new account after the official close.

Leading shares ended mixed but Thera EML up 25p to 494p, stood out after a report that the troubled subsidiary Iamos was supplying its revolutionary transport chip to an American computer manufacturer.

In contrast further consideration of Wednesday's results knocked 15p from Lucas, at 636p. But BOC Group, at 362p, GKN, 373p, Tate & Lyle, 533p, and Vickers, 483p, improved 6p to 10p.

Supermarkets made good progress. AB Foods extended Wednesday's late advance by another 12p to 340p on stock shortage. Tesco was another firm spot at 358p, up 8p.

Stores were supported again with renewed demand for Combined English, at 256p up 13p, on persistent talks of a deal with GUS, 15p higher at 979p. Woolworth Holdings lost another 8p to 603p after Wednesday's results.

In textiles, House of Lore was up 23p at 143p in response to a 65 per cent earnings expansion. Acquisition hopes lifted F H Tomkins 11p to 246p and Tarmac continued to express satisfaction with the Thermalite acquisition, up 18p to 496p. FKI Electrical owed its 5 1/2p rise to press comment.

In quieter banks, Standard Chartered climbed 50p to 624p excited by the £80 million Moccata deal and better-than-expected results. The rise was also accompanied by bid talk but dealers were convinced that the move was a catching-up exercise after depression caused by the Un crisis and Far Eastern banking problems.

Insurances made a drab showing with Guardian Royal 18p easier at 848p ahead of Wednesday's results.

Satisfactory figures lifted Baidon another 10p to 174p. Birmingham added another 3p to 132p after the annual meeting statement. Glywedd's Australian deal and anticipation of good results boosted shares 16p to 362p. Smiths Industries, also reporting soon, hardened 4p to 316p.

Electricals improved with STC up another 6p to 136p after a recent upgrading. International Signal was also firm at 355p, up 12p, and VIG Investments advanced 18p to 414p on further reaction to Wednesday's 35 per cent expansion.

Automatic Products rallied 11p to 242p behind Wednesday's figures from Lucas. GKN was another to benefit at 373p, up 6p. The appointment of a chief executive helped Kenning Motor to another 7p rise at 213p. Disappointing profits lopped 8p from Auto Security at 175p but J Bilham, at 100p up 9p. Breedon Cloud, 270p up 7p, and John I Jacobs, 58 1/2p up 1 1/2p, reflected favourable statements.

BAT Industries improved 9p more to 400p on Wednesday's results. Reckitts, reporting next Thursday, gained 9p to 809p. British and Commonwealth attracted investment support at 378p up 13p.

PCW names plan to sue if July 1 deadline is not met

By Alison Eadie

Lloyd's names on the loss-stricken PCW syndicates have been advised by a steering committee of names that, if satisfactory progress towards a market settlement of their claims is not made by July 1, writs will be issued.

The standstill agreement on litigation, which was negotiated with Lloyd's and other potential defendants, has been extended until the end of September. It was due to expire at the end of this month.

According to the letter written yesterday to names, the decision to extend the agreement indicates "that there are grounds for optimism that a fair settlement to the PCW affair will be forthcoming and that it will be forthcoming in principle by the end of June".

The committee, however, has said that it expects to see written proposals for a settlement tabled by potential de-

endants by that date, when the committee will decide whether sufficient progress has been made to defer litigation further.

Even if written proposals were forthcoming by the end of June, it might take several more months for an offer to be published to names and for that offer to be accepted by names, the letter said.

Since the standstill agreement was negotiated last Christmas, the defendants, who include Lloyd's and the Lloyd's brokers Minet Holdings, Alexander Howden and Sedgwick, have seen the draft statement of claim against them. Lloyd's has been actively seeking a settlement since then, which would involve the brokers and names paying a proportion of the estimated losses.

The committee's letter to names states that since Christ-

mas there has been a mood of realism and better understanding at Lloyd's of the PCW affair, which was not evident before.

Part of the problem of finding a settlement is estimating the exact size of the potential losses. The last published figure was £130 million, but it is feared that the poor quality of business and lack of adequate reinsurance cover could cause this to rise to £200 million or more. AUA3, the agency appointed by Lloyd's to close down the old PCW syndicates is working hard to try to produce up-to-date figures.

PCW names refused to pay their losses last year because they said they were caused by fraud as well as bad underwriting. Former managers of the PCW agency, particularly Mr Peter Cameron-Webb and Mr Peter Dixon, have been found by Lloyd's to have misappropriated £39 million of names' money between 1968 and 1982.

Mr Dixon was found guilty by Lloyd's of diverting £12.8 million out of syndicates for his own personal use.

The letter to names says it is highly improbable that any cash calls will be made on PCW names this year, not least because Lloyd's and AUA3 appreciate that any such call would be vigorously resisted. Nearly 200 PCW names were suspended from underwriting at Lloyd's last year for failing to show they had adequate resources to meet their losses.

Next week American lawyers acting for 50 PCW names are coming to Loodoo to consult with the names' British solicitors. They will discuss whether the steering committee should advise names to sue in American courts, if a decision is taken to proceed with litigation.

Standard Chartered leads race to claim ITC assets

By Michael Prest, Financial Correspondent

Banks and other creditors of the International Tin Council are racing to be the first to claim their share of the International Tin Council's unquantified but small assets.

Standard Chartered Bank has secured from the council an undertaking that ITC assets will not be moved out of Britain. The undertaking increases the bank's chances of recovering its £10 million in loans to the council in a High Court action due to start on April 9.

The key to that action is a waiver by the ITC of its sovereign immunity in loan agreements with Standard Chartered. In this respect, the bank has the best documentation of any lender to the ITC and consequently hopes it will be the first to recover its money. The bank is suing for recovery of its loan, outstanding interest, and damages.

Kleinwort Benson, which also lent the ITC £10 million

and the tin directly held by the ITC would virtually cover the amount outstanding. The problem for other creditors is that the ITC as such might have nothing left with which to repay them.

Banks admit, therefore, that they could quickly find themselves in legal actions against some or all of the ITC's 22 member countries, including Britain. The complication here is that a legal declaration of a default by a country could trigger cross default clauses in loan agreements with other lenders to that country.

Sir Adam Ridley, a director of Hambros Bank, has estimated that the ITC's debts total £420 million. Banks and other financial creditors are owed £80 million of capital and the same amount of interest at a notional 10 per cent. Brokers and dealers are owed £180 million of capital and another £80 million of interest.

Deputy to be next chairman of ICI

By Teresa Poole

Imperial Chemical Industries is to have its youngest chairman since its foundation 60 years ago. Mr Denys Henderson, who will be 54 when he takes over on April 1, next year, was the front-runner for the job.

Mr Henderson, a main board director for six years, who became deputy chairman yesterday, will succeed Sir John Harvey-Jones on his retirement.

The flamboyant Sir John would be a difficult act to follow, he admitted, and he



Denys Henderson: elected by overwhelming majority had no intention of being a carbon-copy.

He said: "His style and mine are different. I am my own man but I am so much in sympathy with John's style. I believe that the strategies are coming through pretty satisfactorily."

Sir John, who has always said he would retire after five years in the job, said he was very happy at the choice. "I have been very anxious that we do not lose the momentum that we have built up."

Until Sir John's retirement, the two men, who have known each other since 1964 when they were both in Japan, intend to work closely together to smooth the transition. The company's salaries committee has yet to decide if the new chairman's salary will match the £312,991 paid to Sir John last year.

Mr Henderson was born in Sri Lanka, the son of a tea planter, and educated in Aberdeen, where he qualified as a Scottish solicitor.

His ICI career began in 1957, after national service when he joined as a lawyer but the extrovert Scot soon graduated towards the marketing and commercial end of the business, with a series of posts in many of the company's divisions.

His current responsibilities, as a director, include pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, colours, and paints, and last year he set up the ICI acquisitions team.

ICI's unique method of selecting a chairman meant that each director was sounded out by a trusted teller - in this case Sir Robin Ibb - who then reported back to Sir John. The vote for Mr Henderson was overwhelming. The future chairman did not envisage any big strategy changes but gave a warning against complacency.

City analysts welcomed the appointment and were pleased that ICI had pre-empted speculation over the succession by making an early announcement.

Mr Henderson has a five-year contract but could have up to eight years at the top before reaching ICI's retirement age of 62.

Britannia deal

Britannia Arrow has agreed in principle to acquire MIM, an investment management company, from Aetna Life and Casualty Co. Details will be announced shortly.

Westland seeks share cut

By Judith Huntley

Westland, the helicopter company and subject of political controversy, wants to cut drastically the nominal value of its ordinary shares to wipe out a £47.8 million loss.

The company, which was the subject of a £75 million rescue package by Sikorsky, the US helicopter company, and Fiat, the Italian company, is asking shareholders to allow it to write off the £47.8 million deficit on the profit and loss account to enable future profits to be distributed to them.

The Westland board wants approval to cut the nominal value of the ordinary shares from 25p to 2 1/2p and to reduce the share premium account and other reserves by £21.2 million.

The move is part of Westland's reconstruction plans. The company is unable to pay a dividend at the moment. It suffered a pre-tax loss of £95.3 million for the year ended September 30 1985.

Westland's annual meeting is to be held on April 25 and shareholders will then be asked to approve the write off of the £47.8 million deficit by special resolution.

The reduction of capital will not affect assets attributable to shareholders. In addition to the special resolution Westland's board will also have to obtain the approval of the courts for its capital reduction plan. It is anticipated that the court hearing will be two months after the annual meeting.

The main reason for the loss were the exceptional provisions of £106.6 million of which £79.8 million was a write down on civil aircraft.

Sharp fall in US trade deficit

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

United States exports rose and imports declined last month, sharply reducing the country's trade deficit, in manufactured goods, the Commerce Department said yesterday.

It said that the shortfall between imported goods and exports declined to \$12.49 billion (\$8.61 billion) last month from January's record \$16.46 billion.

Exports last month rose by 4.3 per cent to \$17.73 billion - the highest level since last June. Imports were down by 9.7 per cent to \$30.23 billion.

The sharp drop in world oil prices helped February's trade figures. The Commerce Department reported that both the volume and dollar value of imported oil was down last month from a month earlier.

Petroleum imports played its part in the 27.9 per cent drop in February to \$3.78 billion, from \$5.25 billion in

January. Volume was down 21.23 per cent to 152.2 million barrels from 193.2 million.

The average price for a barrel of imported oil was down by \$2.29 to \$24.85. This was the lowest level since November 1979, when production cuts by Middle Eastern producers caused spot shortages and spiking oil prices for American consumers.

Imports of items other than oil, such as cars, clothing and other goods, fell moderately to \$22.2 billion last month from \$23.46 billion in January.

The improvement in export performance last month included a rise in the value of manufactured goods sales to \$12.18 billion from \$11.39 billion in January.

Sales abroad of aircraft and spare parts totalled \$1.3 billion.

Property firm flotation

By Judith Huntley, Commercial Property Correspondent

Clarke Securities, the £70 million Stafford based private property and construction group, is floating its property division on the market by reversing into a former manufacturing company, Redman Heenan.

The new company, to be called St Modwen Properties, will have a market capitalization of £10 million. Mr Stan Clarke, the chairman of Clarke Securities, will have a large stake in the new company and he will be its chief executive.

Redman Heenan shareholders will be asked to approve a subscription, a placing and a rights issue to raise £3.1

million to broaden the company's base.

St Modwen Properties will have net tangible assets of £1.7 million, equivalent to 10.05p of the enlarged share capital.

St Modwen plans to develop over one million sq ft of retail space in Britain. Its major schemes are the £20 million, 140,000 sq ft Octagon Centre in Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire, and the £15 million 250,000 sq ft out of town centre at Junction 28 of the M1 motorway.

The company has ambitions to become one of the leading retail and leisure developers within the next five years.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

Table with columns for Stock Market, New York, Tokyo, Nikkei Dow, Hang Kong, etc.

GOLD

Table with columns for London, New York, etc.

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Table with columns for RISES, FALLS, CURRENCIES, INTEREST RATES.

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

The end of an era in North Sea profits

Company profits rose by 17 per cent last year, according to official figures released yesterday. This is a handsome figure, in accord with the expectations on which the rising market in ordinary shares, in its earlier stages, was based. But the figures may herald the end of an era: for the first time since providence and the oil companies gave Britain North Sea oil, profits from the North Sea have fallen.

Furthermore, the figures for the fourth quarter of 1985 contain the first hint that company profits are coming under pressure: they would seem to be inadequate for the various claims on them.

Next week American lawyers acting for 50 PCW names are coming to Loodoo to consult with the names' British solicitors. They will discuss whether the steering committee should advise names to sue in American courts, if a decision is taken to proceed with litigation.

The low level of acceptances is hardly surprising so soon after the Office of Fair Trading's clearance and so soon before Easter. The real and final battle will be fought next week.

Hanson has made much of the fact that its best offer is the highest on the table. With Hanson shares at 179p, its all-paper offer is worth 367p against UB's best offer of shares, convertible and cash at 340p with UB's shares at 244p. The two cash and share mix offers are level pegging at 332p. Imperial shares were at 343p.

Acceptances for the Hanson bid have shown 85 per cent preference for the all-paper option. Clearly those who have plumped for Hanson have taken a view on the future security of Hanson paper, which has risen strongly lately. Hanson believes the Americans are re-rating the shares after the SCM victory. Others point to the fourfold increase in activity in Hanson traded options since mid-March as indication that the rise may not be sustained.

The battle, however, should not be decided by a short-term share price movement. The real issue is the long-term fate of Imperial, a major force in the consumer industry, and where its best future lies.

The evidence of pressures on profits are mirrored in a decline in the company sector's financial surplus. In the fourth quarter it fell to £377 million, from £1.95 billion in the third quarter. Capital investment remained high and rising but even more interesting was the sharp increase in stockbuilding. Having fallen by £203 million in the third quarter, it leapt to £545 million in the final three months.

Clearly, the boom the Government keeps talking about not only exists but it is also being taken seriously by industry. And the wherewithal for stockbuilding is coming from the banks: borrowings rose to £1,753 million from £743 million in the third quarter.

These trends suggest a further surge in demand for bank credit this year as undistributed profits, which peaked in the first quarter and fell to their lowest level since 1983 in the fourth, become increasingly inadequate. In addition to sustaining high capital spending and rising stock levels, companies have built into their profit and loss accounts higher dividends (32 per cent up last year, or 27 per cent leaving out British Telecom). Other dividends and interest payments were 22 per cent higher last year than in 1984, while taxes rose 20 per cent and profits due abroad by 13 per cent. All in all, the corporate picture is not quite as rosy as it might be.

The management question is more about the types of business to be managed. Hanson's experience is mainly with industrial companies. Moreover, it has not detailed what it would want to do with Imperial. UB has made clear that it wants to keep and develop all Imperial's businesses. It was very sorry Golden Wonder had to go. It also has the advantage of being supported by Imperial's top management, who will stay and run the businesses that UB knows less about, namely tobacco and brewing.

The potential growth from two complementary businesses and the integration benefits to be won from combined distribution, sales and buying power, which will be far more than the conservative £30 million outlined by Imperial, should ensure a better future for Imps than under a conglomerate whose organic growth has been legitimately questioned.

Final reckoning

United Biscuits managed to add only about 1 per cent to its acceptances by yesterday's second closing date, taking its control to around 23 per cent of Imperial against the rival Hanson Trust's 28 per cent.

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TEMPUS

Holiday sun shines early for Intasun

There is nothing like Easter for turning thoughts to warm summer holidays, spent on glorious sandy beaches. According to International Leisure, the Intasun holiday group, and Horizon, both of which announced results last week, many families have already booked their holidays.

Intasun has taken 1.1 million bookings, against only 530,000 this time last year. At Horizon bookings are running at 350,000, which is more than double last year's figure.

Thomson, the largest tour company, is understood to be in a similar position. All three expect to sell many more holidays this year than last, with Intasun forecasting 1.6 million and Horizon 500,000. The huge number of early sales makes it less likely that there will be another bout of discounting later. Already Horizon and Thomson have slashed prices by roughly 20 per cent. Intasun has stood back from this cut-throat competition, and says the average price of its holidays is only 11 per cent less than last year.

As a result, Intasun's margins should hold up best. Last week it forecast profits of £21.3 million for the year ending this month, against £24.8 million in the previous year. Excluding exceptional items such as the profit on aeroplane sales, this leaves profits at £8.7 million. On the same basis it could make £15.8 million this year, helped by interest received on the £28 million rights issue, also announced last week.

Horizon, battling to recover its market share, is likely to see its margins eroded substantially, with the result that profits from trading could be negligible. At 126p, its share price owes much to bid speculation, as Bass holds 26 per cent and Mr Ron Brierley 7 per cent of the shares.

International Leisure is less speculative and with holders of 40 per cent of the shares, including the directors, not taking up their rights, there is bound to be some weakness in the price. Mr Roy Owens of Kicat & Aitken believes the shares, which were 119p yesterday should be held and even bought on weakness.

For an even safer share, investors can opt for Saga

Holidays, which, because it sells specialist holidays to the over 60's, is under less pressure to cut selling prices. At 203p the shares are trading on 12 times prospective earnings.

Royal Insurance

Royal Insurance's decision to offer cut-price rates for houses protected by security devices failed to impress the stock market yesterday. The shares hardly budged even though the move was a fillip for security product companies.

Automated Security (Holdings), which announced results for the year to November yesterday, was no exception, with its shares unchanged at 183p. Profits were up by 37 per cent to £8.66 million before tax but this was slightly less than had been expected.

The associate, Network Security, contributed £780,000 and that would have been higher but for sterling's strength against the dollar.

ASH also had problems of its own making in that its unaudited interim figures had shown a first-half increase of 46 per cent, giving rise to hopes of continued progress at the same level. The company now gives a warning that trends should not be read into its interim figures.

Taking a longer term view, however, prospects are good. The acquisition of Security Centres, which contributed nothing to last year's result, will have boosted turnover substantially.

Sales could rise from last year's £37.6 million to possibly £55 million this year. If, as the company hopes, margins remain the same, operating profits could rise from £10.7 million to £15.5 million. With interest charges apparently set to fall, pretax profits could well be £14.5 million or so.

Croda International

Croda's dividend announced yesterday is unchanged compared with last year's and is no more than was expected. The company doubled its dividend in 1982 to stave off an unwelcome bid from

Burmah, and has been paying for it ever since.

This year, the directors feel sufficiently comfortable at last to make positive noises about a possible increase next year. From being barely covered in 1982, the dividend was covered 1.7 times in 1985. If the outcome for 1986 is as satisfactory as the company hopes, the intention is to make some increase in the level of the ordinary dividend in 1986.

In the year to December, Croda International achieved its fifth consecutive year of profits growth. Pretax profit was £22.9 million, a 14 per cent increase on 1984. Turnover was up 6 per cent to £131 million.

A breakdown of pretax profit shows that Croda Chemicals remains by far the most important profit centre. Its pretax £14 million, up 11 per cent, accounted for 61 per cent of profit.

The poor performance of Croda World Traders, down nearly £1 million to £1.7 million, was mainly attributable to losses in forward commodity contracts.

Since the low point of 1980 when the company was severely hit by the recession, pretax profits have grown at an average annual compound rate of more than 25 per cent. Much of this is due to the significant effort which has gone into streamlining the business. This process culminated in the sale of two unprofitable businesses last year. The UK printing ink operations were sold after years of losses and Premier Oils, a refiner of edible oilseed was sold for £10 million.

These disposals are a manifestation of one tier of the company's strategic approach which is to turn round, sell or close those operations whose profit outlook indicates that they have no long-term future in the group.

Croda believes that its fundamental problems are now solved and that the quality of the group's earnings are improving. The shares, which closed up 4p on the results, are likely to be underpinned by the news on a modest dividend increase of 0.5p net in 1986, the prospective gross yield is 6.9 per cent.

Accountant predicts gloom for oil firms

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Falling oil prices will mean the financial community will need to read oil company accounts very carefully, an oil industry specialist said.

Mr Bernard Clow, of Peat Marwick, the accountants, told an oil industry seminar organized by Fielding Newson Smith, the stockbroker, that assessment of the financial performance of oil companies will be thrown into confusion once the sharp drop in oil prices hit the balance sheets.

He said: "If sterling oil prices stay at their present levels, oil companies will be facing large and unpalatable reductions in earnings and balance sheet values."

"Reconciling the long-term nature of the projects undertaken by the industry with the need for short-term financial statements has always been highly problematical. But in the light of plummeting oil prices, the failure of the Geneva Opec talks, and the traditionally cautious approach taken by auditors in assessing profits and losses, next year's reports and accounts will be gloomy reading, even if crude prices are to recover in the longer term."

Fielding Newson Smith's own oil industry specialist, Mr Humphrey Harrison, said: "It is not merely that 1986 profits and dividends are impossible to forecast. Cashflow, which has been virtually halved overnight, will become the primary indicator of the oil companies' financial health, and liquidity will become all important. If oil prices remain depressed, we would expect a number of bankruptcies."

"Lower oil prices will make new North Sea technology more necessary, according to the Floating Technology Company (Floatech).

Government likely to scrap controversial ADR tax

By Jeremy Warner, Business Correspondent

The Government looks certain to abandon the proposed 5 per cent tax on the conversion of British shares into American Depository Receipts.

The new tax, announced in the Budget, has stirred up a storm of protest both in the City and among British companies whose shares are actively traded in ADR form in the United States.

The Stock Exchange is also lending its support to the campaign to have the tax scrapped despite the fact that growth in the ADR market has meant a considerable loss of business to the London market over the last five years.

ADR's allow the shares of British companies to be traded in overseas markets such as New York without having to comply with tough and often costly overseas regulatory regimes.

Mr Stephen Raven, chairman of the Stock Exchange's international markets committee, said the imposition of the 5 per cent duty was a "disappointing and retrograde step."

"The measure disadvantages those major British companies who want to raise capital in the international market place. It will not help offset any loss of revenue from the reduction in the rate of stamp duty on share purchases because new conversions into ADRs are unlikely to take place, and it will assist the Government in its desire to market internationalized shares of newly privatized industries," he said.

The Stock Exchange believes that anything that smacks of protectionism will ultimately damage the London market and the City generally.

Mr Raven said that London's reputation as an international financial centre would be ill served by erecting barriers such as the proposed ADR tax.

Finance directors from a number of leading British companies have also declared their opposition to the tax. After a meeting at Imperial Chemical Industries' headquarters this week, the finance directors said that the duty would have serious financial and commercial consequences for British companies.

The chairman of three of Britain's leading companies, Sir Kenneth Durham of Unilever, Sir Peter Walters of British Petroleum and Mr Patrick Sheehy of BAT Industries, said in a letter to the Press that the measure was inept and looked like another piece of anti-Americanism.

"It comes at a time when we and others have made great efforts to build up strong US shareholdings to support the growth of our own activities in the United States," he said.

Some finance directors are already considering avoidance measures as extreme as changing their company's domicile.

One, who did not wish to be named, said the duty would raise no extra revenue for the chancellor since companies would either find ways of avoiding the tax or the ADR market would dry up entirely.

The Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, announced in the Budget that he was halving the rate of stamp duty on ordinary share transactions to 0.5 per cent. In order to recoup the estimated £70 million loss of revenue, he would be introducing a 5 per cent duty on ADR conversions and bringing a number of transactions previously exempt from stamp into the tax net.

The Stock Exchange said in its Budget submission that stamp duty should be abolished entirely because of the effect it was having on the international competitiveness of London as a financial centre and as a market place for raising capital by British companies.

Step forward for footwear makers

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Some of Britain's troubled footwear makers may soon be expanding again although so far only a minority of the manufacturers expect to.

This emerges from the latest quarterly assessment of the industry by the British Footwear Manufacturers Federation which also reports volume deliveries by British manufacturers last year to be up 1 per cent from 1984.

This was despite overall supplies to the market, including imports, being down 2 per cent at 268 million pairs. The British makers delivered 129 million pairs. Import penetration is still high at 58.6 per cent but that is a drop of just over 1 per cent on the year before.

A factor in the improved performance of the British makers is that their exports rose last year in volume by some 2 per cent. Exports now account for about 14 per cent of British production. Sales to the United States had been growing strongly with improvements showing up also in the French, Dutch and Italian markets.

A minority of British makers are now thinking about expansion, the federation reported. But it warned that for most businesses continued pressure on margins and lack of confidence about trading prospects beyond the next few months were still a deterrent to investment for the time being.

Provincial profits plummet

Provincial Insurance is restructuring after reporting substantial losses on all areas of general underwriting.

Estimated results for 1985 show a general business underwriting loss of £21.68 million against £12.65 million a year earlier although general business premiums were up at £191.43 million from £157.75 million.

The final dividend is 15p making a total of 25p, up 2p. Group profit before tax was sharply down to £368,000 from £3.69 million.

The directors have decided to recommend to shareholders a reorganization of the existing group structure, involving the creation of a new holding company. Full details will be sent to shareholders in the next three months.

Proposals will include cancellation of the 10 per cent and 25 per cent listed preference shares on payment to the holders of 140p and 70p per share respectively.

Provincial says substantial underwriting losses have resulted from general insurance in all major areas in which the company operates.

The United Kingdom recorded premium growth of 29.7 per cent.

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES		RIGHTS ISSUES	
Abbott M V (180p)	225 -1	SAC Int (100p)	139 +1
Ashley L (135p)	210 -52	SFF (125p)	157
BPP (160p)	182	Templeton (215p)	230
Boodram (160p)	182	Sigmex (101p)	80 -2
Chart FL (89p)	93	Snowdon & B (97p)	118
Chancery Secs (83p)	78	Spice (80p)	96
Conv 9% A 2000	229 +1 1/2	Tech Comp (130p)	204
Cranwick M (95p)	105	Underwoods (180p)	185
Dialene (125p)	190 +5	Wellcome (120p)	220 -5
Ferguson LJ (10p)	31 +1 1/2	W York Hosp (90p)	78
Gold Gem Trst (185p)	188	Wicks (140p)	171 +1
Granite Surface (56p)	78 -10		
Inoco (85p)	42		
JS Pathology (180p)	276 +1	Cullens N/P	75
Jarvis Porter (105p)	130 -3	Hartwells N/P	4
Kearford (118p)	115 -3	NMW Comp	117 +3
Leaden (15p)	140	Porter Chad F/P	103 -1
Mazda A (105p)	144	Safeway UK	248 +1
Marvale M (115p)	102	Wates F/P	152 +2
Nonark Sys (90p)	102	Westland F/P	83
Really Useful (330p)	341		

(Issue price in brackets).

Notice to Members and Depositors

WITH EFFECT FROM 1st SEPTEMBER, 1986, THE FOLLOWING INTEREST RATES WILL APPLY TO INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS:

Account Type	Interest Rate
Paid-Up Shares	7.00% equivalent to 10.00%
↑ Bonus Shares '77	8.00% equivalent to 12.57%
↑ Bonus Shares '78	9.05% equivalent to 12.93%
Plus (balances below £70,000)	9.35% equivalent to 13.38%
Plus (balances above £70,000)	10.00% equivalent to 14.75%
City Club	7.75% equivalent to 11.07%
A.V.C.s in Pension Schemes	12.25% gross
Pension Funds	11.25% gross

THE RATES OF INTEREST PAID ON ALL OTHER TYPES OF ACCOUNT WILL BE REDUCED BY 1.50% IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPLICABLE TERMS AND CONDITIONS. FINANCIAL INTEREST ON BONUS SHARES IS PAID OTHER THAN ANNUALLY. THE RATES QUOTED SHOULD BE REDUCED BY 0.25% FOR NON-RESIDENTS TO INCOME TAX-PAYERS WITH BASIC RATE INCOME TAX (NOT RECLAIMABLE) PAID.

Colchester Building Society

42-48 NORTH STATION ROAD, COLCHESTER, CO1 1BB

Novel £12m debenture by British Land

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

British Land, the property and industrial company, is issuing a £12 million debenture of 38-year money at a price of £95.52 per cent.

The debenture arises from an innovative "drop lock" debenture issue arranged in 1981 by Guinness Mahon & Co, the merchant bank, and James Capel & Co, the stockbroker. It has been triggered by a fall in gilt rates to a 9.8 per cent yield.

The debenture is secured on British Land's Plantation House City office block. There is an 11 per cent fixed coupon.

The company can draw a second tranche of £20 million.

Growing pressure to make inflation index homeless

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Rising housing costs and, in particular, higher mortgage rates, contributed nearly a third of the inflation rate last year.

Retail prices increased by 5.5 per cent in the 12 months to January. If housing had been excluded from the Retail Price Index, the rise would have been just 3.8 per cent, according to figures in the latest *Employment Gazette*, published by the Department of Employment.

The treatment of housing within the RPI has been a matter of controversy. In June 1984, the Employment Secretary announced the reconvening of the RPI advisory committee to look into the construction of the index.

The Government was embarrassed by the effects on the inflation rate of increases in the mortgage interest rate.

This embarrassment persists. Last year mortgage interest payments rose by 18 per cent and were the main reason for the large rise in the housing component of the RPI.

The argument for the exclusion of mortgage rates, which has been advanced by the building societies, is that their inclusion as a cost is one-sided as there is a corresponding benefit from higher rates offered to savers.

The RPI advisory committee, originally due to have published its report by now, appears to be having difficulty with this argument. The committee's report will not be published until the end of the year.

An alternative to the exclusion of mortgage rates will be proposed by the Institute for Fiscal Studies next month.

A BAT INDUSTRIES REPORT
Extracts from the preliminary results for the year ended 31 December 1985

Profit £1168m: Dividend up by 17 1/2%

Group Results

	Year to December 1985	Year to December 1984
Pre-tax profit	£1168m	£1405m
Attributable to B.A.T. Industries	£674m	£784m
Dividend per share	12.10p	10.30p
£1 = \$1.446 at 31.12.85 (\$1.159 at 31.12.84).		

Group pre-tax profits in 1985 totalled £1168 million. This 17 per cent decline - as reported in sterling - owed much to the weakness of the US dollar, which sharply reduced profits when translated into sterling at year-end rates. Operating profits were 12 per cent lower at £1288 million, and attributable earnings were 14 per cent down at £674 million.

The year in fact saw growth and good performance in most of the Group's businesses. Tobacco and paper had a particularly strong year, as did life and pensions business and UK retailing. There were however unsatisfactory performances in some parts of US retailing and unexpectedly high claims experience in UK general insurance.

Nevertheless total operating profit in local currency terms showed a further one per cent improvement and would have reached £1485 million had exchange rates remained constant during the year. After a higher net interest charge, pre-tax profits would have shown a decrease of 3 per cent to £1361 million. The Group remains one of the UK's leading and most profitable businesses.

All comparisons are affected by further changes in Group structure. Allied Dunbar was acquired, Soporcel became an associate, and Mardon Packaging was sold. It is a striking testimony to the Group's financial strength and strong cash flow that the gross debt/equity ratio came down to 50 per cent, having risen to 64 per cent in early 1985 following the purchase of Allied Dunbar.

Taking the increase in Group results reported over the two years, 1984 and 1985, pre-tax profits are up by 19 per cent and earnings per share by 22 per cent.

Tobacco experienced a buoyant year. Group cigarette volume rose by 4 per cent, with improved market share in Brazil and the US. In local currencies Group trading profit from tobacco increased by 8 per cent.

Paper also had a strong year, with higher sales of carbonless copying paper from both Wiggins Teape and Appleton. With help from lower pulp prices profits grew by 19 per cent in local currencies.

Retailing had a mixed year, with another sparkling performance from Argos and good results in

difficult circumstances from Marshall Field's, Saks Fifth Avenue and Ivey's. But most of our other US stores performed inadequately, and it has been decided to concentrate our efforts on stores which offer growth potential and to dispose of the others, which in aggregate made a substantial loss.

Financial services now includes Allied Dunbar as well as Eagle Star, and both achieved substantial growth in life and pensions income. Eagle Star's general business suffered from an unexpectedly high claims experience but premium rates are now at a more satisfactory level.

Associated companies had an excellent year in local currencies. Imasco achieved further growth despite competitive pressures in Canadian tobacco and US drug stores.

In the light of the year's positive features the Board will be recommending to shareholders a final dividend of 7.35p, making a total for the year of 12.10p, an increase of 17.5 per cent over the previous year, and an 85 per cent growth in excess of UK inflation over the past five years.

PROSPECTS for 1986 are for further growth at operating profit level. Factors outside our control include exchange rates and greatly reduced investment income from Brazil. But we expect an increase in attributable profits.

B.A.T. INDUSTRIES

Full financial statements will be delivered to the Registrar of Companies and carry an unqualified audit report. The results are being posted to shareholders. Copies are available from the Company Secretary B.A.T. Industries Ltd, Windsor House, 50 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0NL.

PATRICK SHEEHY, Chairman

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares turn mixed

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began March 10. Dealings ended yesterday. Contango day April 1. Settlement day, April 7. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Price, % Change. Lists various companies under categories like DRAPERY AND STORES, BREWERIES, BUILDINGS AND ROADS, etc.

Weekly Dividend table with 4 columns: Day, Dividend, % Change, Total.

BRITISH FUNDS table with 4 columns: Fund Name, Price, % Change, Yield.

SHORTS (Under Five Years) table with 4 columns: Fund Name, Price, % Change, Yield.

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS table with 4 columns: Fund Name, Price, % Change, Yield.

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS table with 4 columns: Fund Name, Price, % Change, Yield.

UNDATED table with 4 columns: Fund Name, Price, % Change, Yield.

INDEX-LINKED table with 4 columns: Fund Name, Price, % Change, Yield.

BANKS DISCOUNT HP table with 4 columns: Fund Name, Price, % Change, Yield.

Table with 4 columns: 1986/87 High Low, Company, Price, % Change. Includes BREWERIES, BUILDINGS AND ROADS, CHEMICALS, PLASTICS, CINEMAS AND TV, DRAPERY AND STORES, ELECTRICALS.

Table with 4 columns: 1986/87 High Low, Company, Price, % Change. Includes FOODS, HOTELS AND CATERERS, INDUSTRIES A-D, DRAPERY AND STORES, ELECTRICALS.

Table with 4 columns: 1986/87 High Low, Company, Price, % Change. Includes DRAPERY AND STORES, ELECTRICALS.

Table with 4 columns: 1986/87 High Low, Company, Price, % Change. Includes DRAPERY AND STORES, BREWERIES, BUILDINGS AND ROADS, CHEMICALS, PLASTICS, CINEMAS AND TV, DRAPERY AND STORES, ELECTRICALS.

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Table with 4 columns: 1986/87 High Low, Company, Price, % Change. Includes DRAPERY AND STORES, ELECTRICALS.

THE TIMES Portfolio DAILY DIVIDEND £2,000 WEEKLY DIVIDEND £20,000 Claims required for +54 points Claims required for +176 points Claimants should ring 0254-53272

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COMPANY NEWS

BROWN BOVERI KENT (HOLDINGS) Total dividend for 1985 3p (2.5p). Turnover £118.57 million (£117.46 million). Pretax profit £8.78 million (£7.58 million). Earnings per share 9.8p (6.7p). The board reports that the group entered 1986 with a good order book and prospects in all divisions are encouraging.

dividend for 1985 cut from 12.75p to 4.5p. Turnover Irish £19.2 million (Irish £25.4 million). Pretax profit Irish £130,000 (Irish £3.32 million). MOORGATE MERCANTILE HOLDINGS: The company has acquired a portfolio of medium-term secured mortgages from Brigstowe Finance for £1.05 million, satisfied by the allotment of 2.23 million ordinary shares at the request of the vendors, these shares have been placed.

Grant v Edwards Before Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, Lord Justice Mustill and Lord Justice Nourse (Judgment given March 24) An excuse made to a plaintiff cohabitee as to why her name was not being included on the title deeds of the house was sufficient evidence to establish a common intention that she should have a beneficial interest in the house.

plaintiff was to have some sort of proprietary interest in the house. The more difficult question was whether there was conduct on her part which amounted to an acting upon that intention or conduct on which she could not reasonably have been expected to embark unless she was to have an interest in the house.

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc Mortgage Rates The Royal Bank of Scotland announces that with effect from 1 May 1986 its House Mortgage Rate will be reduced from 12 3/4% to 12% per annum. Endowment Mortgage Rate will be reduced from 12 3/4% to 12% per annum.

BASE LENDING RATES ABN 12 3/4% Adam & Company 11 1/4% BCCI 11 1/4% Citibank Savings 12 1/4% Consolidated Grds 12 1/4% Continental Trust 11 1/4% Co-operative Bank 12 1/4% G. Hoare & Co 11 1/4% Lloyds Bank 11 1/4% Nat Westminster 11 1/4% Royal Bank of Scotland 11 1/4% TSB 11 1/4% W. & A. 11 1/4%

Midland Bank plc v Phillips and Others Before Lord Justice Slade and Lord Justice Goff (Judgment given March 14) On a summons issued by a bank under Order 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court in enforcement of a guarantee, the guarantors' evidence that at the time the guarantee was given they had misunderstood the bank's intentions as to enforcing the guarantee was capable of giving rise to a defence, albeit a shadowy one, even though they knew what was intended by signing the guarantee, and notwithstanding absence of fault on the part of the bank.

Shadowy defence for guarantors The judge found that although the previous relationship between the parties had been a casual one, with their son's birth it changed. They decided to live together on a more permanent basis. The judge also took into account evidence by the defendant that he was thinking of buying a house to settle down and have a family in and that it was the plaintiff whom the defendant had in mind.

HANSON BID WORTH: 369.0p UNITED BISCUITS BID WORTH: 342.4p HANSON BID BETTER BY: +26.6p CONTINUING GROWTH FROM BASIC BUSINESSES.

Rates benefit for linked building Debenhams plc v Westminster City Council Before Lord Justice Fox, Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Ralph Gibson (Judgment given March 25) A building which was fixed to a "fixed building" as defined by section 54(9) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971, was under paragraph 2(e) of Schedule 1 to the General Rate Act 1967, exempted from rates while unoccupied.

Direction to jury on issue of intent Regina v Purcell The direction to be given to a jury on the issue of intent was clarified by the Court of Appeal (Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Boreham and Mr Justice Taylor) on March 11 when granting an application out of time but refusing an application for leave to appeal against conviction following a plea of guilty in Leveson Crown Court (Mr Justice Paine and a jury) to causing grievous bodily harm with intent.

Drug smuggling is extraditable In re Chotpanang Section 170(2)(b) of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979, which created the offence of the fraudulent evasion of any prohibition in respect of goods, created an offence which was extraditable where the prohibited goods were controlled drugs prohibited by section 3 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

Drug smuggling is extraditable The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Croom-Johnson and Mr Justice Mann) so held on March 25 when it dismissed the application for a writ of habeas corpus of Thana Chotpanang directed to the governor of Pentonville Prison and against the order of the Bow Street Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate, dated December 11, 1985, committing the applicant to prison under section 3 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

The sky-high stakes in a small world

Increasing traffic and lower costs in fuel should enable airlines to move into profit. But essential capital spending and pressure to reduce fares threatens this

The world airline industry has moved out of the economic turbulence through which it flew in the early years of this decade, and which produced five straight years of losses totalling \$6.2 billion (about £4.1 billion).

But, it is far from being back to the rosy days of the early 1970s, when traffic rose consistently by 10 per cent every year and everybody made enough money to finance the purchase of fleets of new aircraft.

According to estimates by the International Air Transport Association, the industry will do little better than break even this year (after having recorded an after-interest profit of \$500 million on international scheduled services in 1985).

It could even return to the red, although the continuing decline of oil prices should revise these estimates in the airlines' favour.

In the meantime, traffic is increasing at a reasonable rate, although the large majority of it is at the cheap end of the market, from which the airlines make only marginal profits and in some cases even lose money.

The industry continues to sharpen its productivity, hold its costs in check and introduce the absolute minimum of new capacity to cope with rising traffic.

But there are signs that the

tactic agreement between airlines in the last-mentioned area is breaking down, particularly on the routes across the North Atlantic. European airlines complain that United States carriers are starting to flood the market with seats.

It is these fears that have led the British government to postpone yet again the date for the privatization of British Airways, to the chagrin of Lord King, chairman of the airline.

Lord King has successfully prepared BA for flotation by turning it around from a near-bankrupt state to one in which it is highly-profitable.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has assured Lord King that the Government is determined to press ahead with privatization within the lifetime of the present administration, but no new timetable has been set.

Ideas for a management buy-out of the airline, floated by its advisers, have been dropped.

Government hesitation over privatization hinges on the difficulty of writing a prospectus against the background of uncertainties contained in the renegotiation of the Bermuda 2 air services agreement between Britain and the US.

Annex 2 of this agreement controls the volume of traffic which both sides can mount, and if not renewed before

its expiry in July, American airlines could be expected to dump thousands of additional seats in an overcrowded North Atlantic market. It is feared that this may undermine the financial position of British Airways and British Caledonian.

The Government in London is also keen to have a revision, within the Bermuda 2 protocol, of the situation in which British airlines flying into the US are subject to American anti-trust laws.

A lean and dynamic privatized British Airways would be a powerful force within the world airline industry. BA is

up against other top airlines which have moved into the private sector and companies which have been sharpened by deregulation.

Deregulation in the US has altered the entire face of the airline sector, producing a wave of massive takeovers and new groupings and a succession of filings under the bankruptcy laws.

Some which have declared

to be insolvent under chapter 11 have been able to reappear, paying lower wages to non-unionized labour. Pilots on overworked cabin staff check in passengers before the flight.

The traditional pattern of the industry is changing, with experienced staff leaving under redundancy schemes.

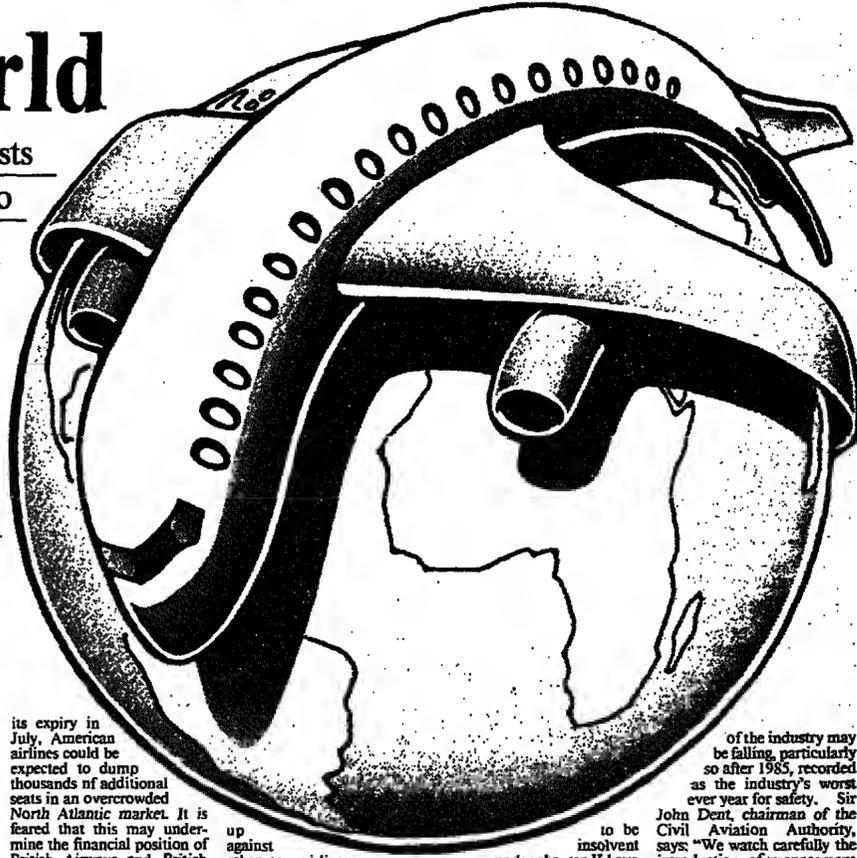
This in turn is raising fears that the engineering standards

of the industry may be falling, particularly so after 1985, recorded as the industry's worst ever year for safety.

Sir John Dent, chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority, says: "We watch carefully the introduction of management into the industry with little or no airline experience, and monitor the financial pressures on airline companies."

"There is the risk that loyal, but misguided staff of airlines in financial difficulties may cut corners on safety. This is intensifying an important dimension of safety regulation."

Arthur Reed



Join the jet set to fly past the jams

As airports' congestion increases, and fears of terrorism at airports or on airline flights grow, more businesses are looking at the possibility of flying their employees on their own aircraft or on aircraft operated for them. A further way of by-passing the airlines is to hire air taxis.

Sixty aviation companies offer air-taxi services in Britain, all members of the Air Transport Operators Association.

Corporate aircraft are getting bigger, with longer range, and a number of ex-airliners are being converted for this type of operation. The Saudi royal family has its own Boeing 747 jumbo and the Boeing company says that about 100 of its airliners of various types are in use as business jets around the world.

The British BAC 1-11 airliner is taking on a new lease of life as a corporate aircraft re-engined with the new Rolls-Royce Tay powerplant. The Tay is also the engine chosen for the new American Gulfstream IV business aircraft.

At the same time, the smaller executive aircraft remains popular. British Aerospace has now sold over 600 of its 125 seven-seater jet, a large proportion of them to companies in the United States, where some 70 per cent of the

leading 500 industrial companies listed by *Fortune* magazine operate their own aircraft of various types.

The sophisticated, twin-engine helicopter is gaining popularity rapidly as an executive aircraft, with its ability to land safely at or very near sites to be visited by the peripatetic businessman.

Costing the avoidance of airline schedules through the use of a company's own plane is not easy, involving as it must a valuation of executive time. Chartering an eight-seat Citation jet from London to Frankfurt and back costs about £2,600, and a Lear 35 jet with similar capacity between Manchester and Milan and back £5,900.

But advantages are that the aircraft can leave at what time, and from which airport, the charterers want, and can complete in one day schedules that could take two by the airlines. This saves expensive overnight hotel accommodation.

Drawbacks are that all the seats have to be paid for, whether they are occupied or not. In Britain it is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain take-off times at the peak hours at Heathrow and Gatwick airports.

Long-term pressure by various aviation bodies to obtain a true executive aviation airport to serve the entire London area has so far proved unsuccessful.



Gulfstream III Corporate Jet: Gulfstream's latest uses Rolls-Royce Tay engines



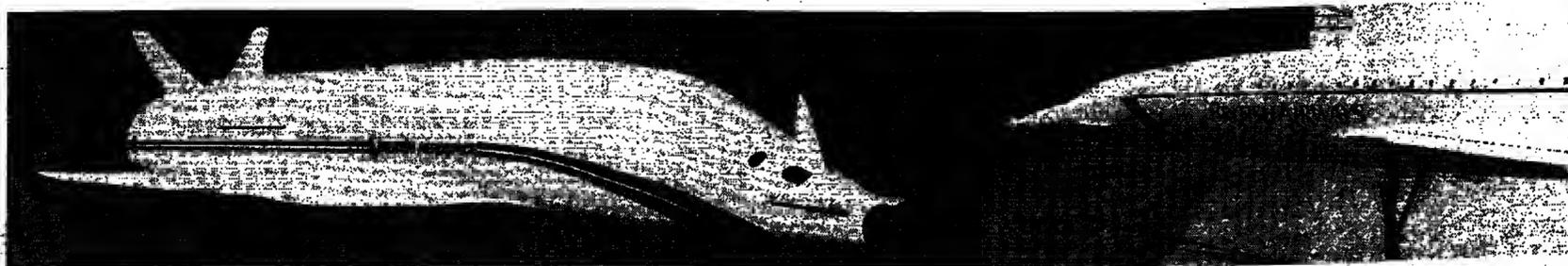
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Shaping up to the future: Model of HOTOL, British Aerospace's proposal for a cheaper alternative to the space shuttle; and Concorde, a technological triumph that will soon be out of date

Cargo moves into executive class

The character of the air-freight industry has undergone a major change over the past few years, brought about by several diverse influences.

For many years air-cargo rates had been set by Tata, as had passenger fares, but the entry into the world market of several non-Tata airlines, operating on low budgets, heralded a virtual free-for-all in the struggle to maintain market share.

A new professionalism is evident in the air-cargo industry. Geoff Bridges, cargo manager of British Airways, said: "Air cargo has moved out of the boiler-suit image into the pin-stripe suit."

It reflects the attitude of the major airlines like BA, who are spending £7 million on upgrading their cargo-handling facilities at Heathrow, close to the new terminal 4.

British Caledonian is also looking at a similar system for its Gatwick cargo base to handle this year's expected £90 million worth of air-freight. More than half of this is destined to travel on the North Atlantic route, the busiest stretch of sky in the world.

The over-capacity on the North Atlantic, particularly to the Eastern Seaboard, has not deterred the "one-route" operators. Laker, although heavily involved in holiday charter-traffic, concentrated his scheduled service to the States.

Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic is different. It sees freight as a definite part of the airline's operation. Selling at a price lower than the published rates of the Laker carriers, Virgin is aiming at the smaller consignments, up to about 100 kilos.

The introduction of the wide-bodied jet with its huge belly-hold capacity has revolutionized the

air cargo market. Freighter aircraft are becoming an endangered species, though there are still the specialists around like Cargolux, operating two 747F freighters which regularly fly 100 tonnes of freight out of Luxembourg.

Cargolux survives because it specializes in particular routes on a scheduled basis.

These changes, and the shorter life-cycle of many goods together with the high cost of keeping large stocks, has led to the "just-in-time" inventory control method. Air-freight, with its rapid transit times across the globe, benefits enormously.

Another major influence has been the advent of the express parcel and courier companies, such as DHL, Skypak and Emery. Emery, in fact, started the "express" concept in the States more than 15 years ago. It estimates the worldwide air courier/air cargo markets at around \$19 billion, with 55 per cent of that being traditional air-cargo movements.

Electronic mail and facsimile transmissions are reducing the number of documents travelling the world, but the small package market is growing fast.

Today it is speed on the ground that separates the men from the boys. Express Customs clearance for air-freight consignments is essential, as is the door-to-door service. It is, perhaps, the freight forwarders who will suffer.

Those that have seen the writing on the wall are cashing in now. Others will follow, but the air-cargo industry looks set for a comfortable cruise well into the next century.

Peter D. Smith

Smoother service at hi-tech airport

Terminal four at Heathrow airport, London, built by the British Airports Authority at a cost of £200 million to handle a total of eight million passengers a year, is due to open early in April. The construction is symptomatic of a trend in airport development which may be seen throughout the world.

That is, to squeeze the last square yard of space, and the last ounce of productivity out of existing airports, rather than build new ones on "green-field" sites, the trend during the 1960s and 1970s.

Rising costs of construction, dwindling suitable sites, and a swelling world-wide environmental movement has forced the former option on the airport operators and the airlines which use them. This has resulted in a quickening of the pace of development of airport automation so space in both the air and on the

ground can be used more efficiently.

Many existing airport terminals were built in an aviation era before that of the wide-bodied airliners, when a plane-load of 180 passengers was considered large. These are now having to undergo considerable and expensive updating.

When British Airways moves its long-distance services to terminal four next month, terminal three is to be virtually gutted and reconstructed. Plans are also advanced for John F. Kennedy, New York, to have billions of dollars spent on it.

Airliners such as the Boeing 747 and the McDonnell Douglas DC-10 which are now entering airlines' inventories with longer ranges, may result in some airports fading from the prominence which they have enjoyed. Rather than fly the polar route, stopping for refuelling at Anchorage, an

increasing number of airlines, Finnair, Air France, Japan Air Lines, now fly non-stop between Europe and Tokyo. This cuts six hours off the journey. British Caledonian plans to follow suit in 1987, and many others are eyeing the route across Siberia.

If this trend continues, will Anchorage, developed at a cost of millions of dollars become a ghost airport, rather as happened to Shannon, Ireland, and Gander, Newfoundland, when airliner range took another quantum jump?

From the passengers point of view, the trend is encouraging. Not only does it get him or her to their destination more quickly and less tiringly, but the less chance there is for lights to be interfered with by terrorists.

Terrorism and the threat of terrorism continues to place an increasing burden on airlines and airport operators in staff and equipment costs. It also reduces the extent to which airport premises can be used. Once again, the crisis is producing appropriate technology.

At both Gatwick and Stansted, now given the green light by Government to be developed as the third airport for London, no new runways are to be built. This is largely in deference to public opinion and the aviation industry is having to learn how to pour a quart of air into a pint pot of concrete.

Fortunately, the micro-chip arrived just at the right time to assist in a solution. It is to be found in the on-board computers which fly the airliners with unerring accuracy down the glidepaths and on to the runways, and in the radar centres which monitor and instruct the pilots and their high-technology aids.

As anybody who has been aboard a flight leaving Heathrow at 11 am will have noticed, there is

usually a traffic jam at peak times, with precious aviation fuel being burned on the ground as up to a dozen airliners jockey for places in the take-off queue.

Peak "slots" at most major airports around the world are now fully booked from one year to the next. Operators are pushed to take up take-off and landing times at unfashionable hours when their customers do not want to fly. And as many airports have noise curfews, with a ban on take-offs between late evening and dawn, the total of slots is not infinite.

When they run out of space at Heathrow and Gatwick, the airlines will be forced to move some of their services to Stansted, Schiphol, Amsterdam, with plenty of spare room, continues to air its aspiration to be "London's third airport".

Many will buy duty-free goods

Congestion on the runways and taxiways is not the only limiting factor at airports. Overloading of the terminal buildings with passengers and their luggage, and of the infrastructure around them — the roads and rail links which connect them to the communities they serve — can be equally inhibiting.

Consideration is being given by airport planners to the wisdom of the traditional practice of calling passengers to airports hours before their flights and then have them sitting around the terminal buildings awaiting the departure call.

During that time, most of them will spend money on duty-free and tax-free goods. The British Airports Authority makes half of its income from commercial sources — but would it not be better to use the expensive airport buildings

more efficiently, even if duty-free profits declined? Britain's airports are to be privatized, and it will be interesting to see what line their highly-competitive new owners adopt in this debate.

Terminal four at Heathrow is a brave experiment in speeding up numbers passing through the airport. Incoming and outgoing streams of passengers are completely segregated, while all of those leaving from the terminal's 18 departure points will mingle in one vast lounge, rather than being shepherded into a series of separate and smaller lounges.

There are questions which can only be answered once the terminal is in full use. Will passengers on the concourse, which is half a mile long, become so confused that some of them will miss their flight? Will the fact that the new terminal is on the south side of the airport, while the three existing terminals are in the central area, result in some passengers going to the wrong terminal? And will airliners taxi-ing from terminal four to the runways slow down the finely-tuned take-off and landing patterns?

Lessons learned at terminal four could be applied eventually to Heathrow's ultimate terminal, number 5. British Airways wants to see it built between the main runways at the western end of the airport on a Thames Water Authority sewage farm.

If the full economic potential of the main London airport, and the foremost aviation crossroads in the world is to be achieved, terminal five will probably happen. But there is a vociferous environmental lobby to be overcome and a new home to be found for millions of tons of sludge, first. This debate will continue for some years yet.

AR



Radar control: A Plessey air traffic control system installed at Vienna airport for less congestion

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The crippling costs of flying on

Making marginal profits, or no profit at all, the industry is in grave difficulty in financing the purchase of the airliners which it needs to replace its ageing fleets. The International Air Transport Association estimates that, depending on the rate of traffic growth, airlines will need to invest between \$150 billion and \$200 billion in aircraft, spare parts and other fixed assets over the next 10 years.

To meet the normal criteria of lenders and investors, the industry will have to earn an average operating profit, before interest, of 10.5 per cent. Past performance varies widely between airlines, but the overall industry level of profitability has fallen far short of this for many years.

While a few airlines have been able to keep their fleets up to date, other fleets have become older and more expensive to maintain - inevitable cracks appear in the airframes and systems become outmoded.

Operators are also under increasing pressure to pension off their older fleets by the new series of noise regulations which are gradually being introduced - in the US last year and in Britain at the beginning of this year. They will be introduced progressively.

But one small British all-cargo airline, unable to bear the cost of upgrading the engines of its aircraft, has already met its demise. If it could only afford to buy the new generation of airliners, which offer highly attractive savings on direct operating costs. They are made of lighter materials and incorporate the latest aviation electronics, enabling them to be flown more efficiently and accurately, with fewer flight crew.

Manufacturers are offering twin-engine airliners, such as the Boeing 767 and the Airbus A310, which are able to fly long distances over water. Airbus is planning the A330, which could fly non-stop between London and Los Angeles, carrying 350 passengers.

But although a few airlines are already operating twin-engine aircraft over water while keeping

within reasonable distance of land in case an engine fails, the aviation authorities on both sides of the Atlantic are still not fully convinced of the safety of what is known in the industry as Etops (extended two operations).

Whether the US Federal Aviation Administration and Britain's Civil Aviation Authority eventually give complete freedom for this type of operation depends on the record that current flights build up.

While technological advances hold considerable hope of lower costs, such reductions have to be balanced against the prospects of numerous increases in outgoings.

Airlines continue to find great difficulty in unlocking the funds which they have earned in a number of foreign countries, particularly in parts of Africa and the Middle East. Recent estimates put

Terrorism costs aviation dear

the amount of such blocked currencies at \$850 million - this after the industry managed to get back \$450 million during 1985.

Insurance premiums have risen steeply, to such an extent that the airlines are planning to bear a growing part of the risk among themselves. Airlines in the Third World complain bitterly that the premiums they are asked to pay are up to several hundred per cent higher than those in developed countries, even though their safety records are no worse and they operate wide-bodied jets.

Airlines are plagued by landing and parking fees at airports, and for flying through other nations' airspace - the *en route* charges. And, procedures such as tortuous courses around defence zones and other prohibited areas cost them millions of dollars each year, particularly in Europe where such areas proliferate. The International Air Transport Association is engaged in talks with governments on this subject, and has succeeded in having some tracks straightened.

International civil aviation is

also prey to political action of many kinds. Providing security against terrorist attacks is expensive, and the possibility of such attacks reduces the overall number of people who are prepared to fly.

In the back of every airline president's mind is the worry of fuel prices. The two massive fuel crises of the 1970s destroyed the industry's traditional economic framework, and set off a search for an alternative fuel to kerosene, notably hydrogen. Little is heard of such research today with the price of kerosene below one dollar a gallon. Efforts to reduce fuel costs are now concentrated on finding more efficient ways of burning it - for example, the development of jet engines like the five-nation V2500, the US-French CFM-56-5, and the British Tay for the short-term.

Airliners will undoubtedly become cheaper to operate after the initial investment. The trend in design for the future seems to be away from airliners becoming larger. The prospects of an 800-

seater - even a 1,000-seater - have now receded. Such aircraft would result in a redesign of the facilities at many airports, although the new Terminal Four at Heathrow has been built with several stands able to take bigger jumbo jets carrying up to twice the normal load of passengers.

The aircraft manufacturers see the biggest market for the remainder of this century being in the 150-seater sector, where there are several thousand airliners currently in service, but due for eventual replacement. And beyond the year 2000? Most of the major aerospace companies are looking at supersonic, hypersonic, even sub-orbital projects, even though the cost of such projects would be prohibitive.

Britain could be within reach of Australia in a little over an hour for air passengers by the year 2010. Air travel, it seems, may not become more comfortable, or even a lot cheaper, but it will almost certainly be faster than today.

AR



Future flyer: Boeing's 767-200 will be used for economic long-distance flights over water

To buy or not to buy, that is the question

747-400 even longer range and a flight deck on which electro-mechanical instruments are replaced by computer-driven information, displayed on coloured cathode-ray tubes. The cancellation of the flight-engine's station and a cockpit of two will save considerable operating costs.

The operators' view is that such competition must keep the price of new airliners, already exceeding \$100 million for a large-capacity, long-range machine, within reasonable bounds. And the new technology generated will also aid profitability.

The battle for sales is fierce, with both sides claiming that the other obtains financial advantages for its products from government. Airbus alleges Boeing does not pay all the taxes that it should, while utilizing some of the development funds it receives from the US government for military projects in its civil programmes.

Boeing suggests that the Airbus consortium obtains help from the government which back it through soft loans, and asks why the company does not publish detailed annual accounts.

While the debate goes on, a new form of propulsion, the unducted fan, a jet engine driving a propeller is being developed. Unlike earlier prop-fans, it is able to produce speeds through the air similar to those obtained by jets.

Research into the unducted fan, which promises to save airlines up to 30 per cent in fuel costs, was prompted by successive fuel crises, fuel being the largest financial outgoing for many airlines. The current decline in fuel prices has not lessened airlines' interest in unducted fans, for the industry believes that the long-term trend is fuel price rise.

Jet engine manufacturers Rolls-Royce, Pratt & Whitney and General Electric are studying unducted fans intensely. But there are many problems to be solved, notably noise, vibration and blade containment should an engine

suffer a failure or be struck by a large bird during flight.

Boeing has a project, coded the 737, for a 150-seater airliner for the future which would use unducted fans. Airbus contends that the economic advantages of such a propulsion system over the jets of its A320 would be marginal - but it would consider fitting unducted fans to the A320 if the advantages prove to be considerable.

Boeing recently signed a memorandum of understanding with Japan to co-develop the 737 should a decision be made to proceed with it. This extends the practice for aerospace companies to share the high costs of the development of new aircraft.

Efficiency will be paramount

All aerospace companies are investing considerable sums in computerized design and construction methods, in particular the development of advanced aviation electronics and the use of carbon fibre and other composites to replace traditional metals. While electronic signalling, or "fly-by-wire", between pilot and the flaps and ailerons of an airliner is already here, it will soon be superseded by "fly-by-light" with lasers conveying the instructions. Most new airliners have significant sections made of composites - in a few cases, the entire hull section. Carbon fibre engine cowling, wing flaps, and undercarriage doors are commonplace.

But the steel industry is fighting the erosion of its old markets with the development of new metals, and new ways of working and "stretching" them, such as superplastic forming.

In the coming generations of airliners, lightness, high strength and efficiency of operation will be paramount as airlines search for improvements in their economics, and in their record of safety. AR

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Deregulation, the system under which the old framework of licensing airlines was swept away, leaving them free to fly between whichever points they like charging highly-competitive fares, has had a fundamental impact on the airline industry in the United States. It is also set to spread to other parts of the world.

In Europe the trend is known as liberalization, but resistance is proving strong, particularly among some of the airlines owned and controlled by governments. Liberalization has split Europe into two airline camps, those who want the traditional, tightly-controlled system of fares and routes unravelled and replaced with a "free-for-all", and those who cling to the status quo, or at best, a slow move towards some element of greater freedom.

The arguments have divided the 20-strong Association of European Airlines. Among those which have taken up a strong pro-liberalization stance are British Airways, British Caledonian, and the Dutch airline KLM. Those adopting a more-cautious approach include Air France, Lufthansa, and Alitalia.

The latter group cites the experience of deregulation in the United States when they urge caution, pointing out that in the US there has been a wave of airline failures and amalgamations.

Perhaps the most forceful among the group of countries seeking liberalization in Europe has been Britain. During the past two years, it has struck agreements, or partial agreements, on looser civil aviation frameworks with Holland, Luxembourg, Italy, and West Germany.

Talks are also proceeding with France, Scandinavia, and Ireland. The agreement with the Dutch is the most far-reaching. It gives freedom for airlines on either side of the Channel to open up new services to the other country without lengthy licensing procedures.

As a result, traffic between Britain and Holland increased by 50,000 during the first 12 months that the agreement was in force, and there were

Channel poses serious threat

also some fares bargains on what had been a high-fare route.

This situation may also be observed on the North Atlantic, where 40 airlines, North American, European, and those countries which fly through Europe, scramble for traffic. Traffic between Britain and the US is controlled by the Bermuda 2 air services agreement. Annex 2 of that accord regulates the number of services which each side can mount.

But annex 2 is due to expire this June, and the British Government fears - and a reason why it has postponed the privatization of British Airways yet again - that without such an agreement, the US airlines will "swamp" the North Atlantic routes with seats, resulting in financial disaster for both BA and British Caledonian.

Over-capacity is already the case on routes from the Unit-

The frantic fight for the freedom of the skies



Haute cuisine: Business travellers enjoy the comforts in the luxurious first-class cabin of a British Caledonian DC10-30

ed States to Europe. As a result of agreements signed soon after the Second World War, US airlines have traffic rights to fly to most points in Europe, but European airlines have far fewer rights into the US.

The European airlines complain that their US counterparts are able to mount uneconomic services into Europe. These are heavily subsidized by their domestic services inside the US which, for many of them, constitutes 95 per cent of their business, while European airlines have to rely on the Atlantic for up to one-third of their income.

The Europeans also argue it is unfair to compare the airline competition situation inside the US with Europe. They say they exist under pressure from highly-developed motorway and railway systems, and cheap charter airlines carrying holidaymakers to the Mediterranean.

In France, the government is pouring billions of francs into the development of the TGV high-speed rail network, whose services are cutting into the traffic of the main domestic airline, Air Inter.

The development of the fixed rail link beneath the Channel in the early 1990s also has serious implications for airlines flying between

Deregulation and liberalization are also spawning large numbers of smaller commuter and regional airlines, particularly in the United States. These are moving in on routes which have been abandoned by the larger carriers.

A system of "hub-and-spoke" operations is growing up in America, with the newcomers feeding passengers in from outlying areas to large towns and cities where they transfer to long-distance domestic, or intercontinental flights.

So vital has this system become to the business of the major US carriers that several of them have established their own subsidiary companies, operating 20-30-seater turbo-prop airliners connecting with their main lines.

A new breed of commuter airlines is also emerging in Europe, encouraged by the trend towards liberalization. An example is NetherLines, a Dutch company based in Rotterdam, and operating out of Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam, to 10 cities in Holland, West Germany, France, and Austria. NetherLines was started only in January last year, but it already has six 18-seater British Aerospace Jetstream 31 airliners in its fleet, and expects to carry around 100,000 passengers this year.

Birmingham Executive Airways started from a base at Birmingham Airport in the British industrial Midlands after British Airways pulled off several routes from that city because the places which British Airways operated were too large to make a profit from the small amount of traffic on offer.

BEA also flies Jetstream 31s, and now links Birmingham with a small network of European business centres, including Copenhagen and Milan, offering a high-class in-flight service at fares equivalent to those charged in club class by the major airlines.

All European airlines are waiting to see what impact the London City short take-off and landing airport will have on their services when it opens late in 1987.

Potential for City airport

London City is being developed by the construction company John Mowlem in the derelict Royal group of docks, six miles, or a 20-minute taxi journey, to the east of the City of London. The airport should handle up to one million passengers a year who fully operational.

Brymon Airways, the Plymouth-based regional airline, is likely to be the first operator into the airport. It is the only British airline which flies the de Havilland of Canada Dash 7 airliner, a 50-seater which can operate economically into and out of the new airport's 2,500 ft runway.

Brymon is applying for routes to Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels and a number of business centres in Britain. It is bound to take some traffic away from the more traditional airline services on such routes.

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YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Distributors taking over

By Derek Harris
Distribution businesses have overtaken manufacturers as the fastest-growing business sector among private companies according to the latest Growth Companies Register, out this week.

411 a year ago. Manufacturers have dropped from 589 last year to 497. The top 1,000 increased their profits by an average 130 per cent.

In construction and civil engineering there was an average profit growth of 192 per cent, while the growth rate in motor vehicles and transport averaged 174 per cent.

been slashed to 131 per cent. Advertising and public relations showed the highest return on capital with 58 per cent.

The register showed 146 companies which more than trebled their profits. There were 411 companies which more than doubled them.

Contact: Growth Companies Register, Growth Data Services, 80 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1DD; £95.

John has brought high fashion to the country smart set

Provincial dressmakers do not normally rank high in the eyes of the fashion world - so John Bowen, of Malmesbury in Wiltshire, is an exception.



John Bowen: Picnics are a perk getting the "good stuff" out of the bank.

He began to design and make wedding dresses for local girls and soon gained a reputation for special occasion clothes.

Why do women who could afford any designer in the country go to the Bowen salon?

The Duchess of Beaufort said: "It's terribly handy coming here as I live just down the road at Badminton House. I want to get my everyday things from Malmesbury and go to Belinda Belville for special clothes.

Mr Bowen asked the duchess which jewellery she intended to wear to a forthcoming ball - because he likes to design a gown around important gems rather than adding them as an afterthought.

Revenue are time-wasters

Small businessmen have to waste too much time over changing tax regulations and because of inadequately trained Inland Revenue staff, according to the Association of British Chambers of Commerce.

A survey found that small firms complain that taxation has become "ridiculously complicated." Many Revenue staff do not understand the tax rules because of the frequent changes and are unhelpful or incompetent, says the ABCC.

VAT inspectors are criticised for wasting company staff time in pursuit of trivial matters - one example being the inspector who spent a day chasing £15 on coffee machine receipts.

The ABCC's main recommendations are that tax changes should only be implemented if they simplify the system.

To simplify payroll calculations the ABCC urgently recommends a unified PAYE and national insurance system.



"I must say that your rivals for this contract all bought me Easter eggs"

Go West if you need know-how

Business ventures and self-employment are under the microscope at the new Bristol and West Job Change Project (JCP), writes Sally Waters.

are mainly professionals and executives over 45, so most of us are interested in self-employment." JCP, which has links with Bristol Polytechnic, draws its members, largely by word of mouth, from a 40-mile radius, including Swindon and Marlborough.

Spokesman Peter Webster said: "We

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CAR BUYERS' GUIDE

Motoring by John Taylor

Mercedes safety balloons



Toyota Space Cruiser: Looks the same but there are many improvements

Airbags which inflate to protect car drivers in the event of a collision have come a long way since the Americans started experiments in the mid-1960s. Then, the idea was something akin to a balloon which blew up to virtually fill the entire inside of a car, effectively cocooning the occupants.

In Europe, Mercedes-Benz started investigating the system in 1966 and adopted the basis of the present system in 1970. This involves a compact airbag mounted in the steering wheel boss which inflates to provide a large cushion to protect the driver from facial injury on the steering wheel.

market cars and the much more expensive 60 aspect adopted extensively for sporting versions. Another distinguishing feature of the latest cars is the replacement of the rather heavy ribbed side protection body panels by a flush design which harmonizes neatly with front and rear bumpers.

Power units are straight six and V8, the latter being an all aluminium design and both show the results of development work aimed at lowering pollution levels while improving overall economy. The 3-litre engine is the straight six-cylinder design used on the 300 SE saloon and the 300 SL roadster, both with fuel injection. The 4.2 and 5.0-litre V8 injection engines are offered on saloons, coupes and roadsters, and with these engines the saloon is also available in long wheelbase form.

Standard features include ABS anti-lock braking on all but the 300 SE saloon, heated door mirrors and front passenger seat height adjustment. Prices range from £20,800 for the 300 SE to £40,400 for the 500 SE coupe.

While retaining the same basic lines and concept of the original cars, the latest versions show improved aerodynamics, new power units and modified interiors. The saloons and coupes have larger 15in wheels with low profile 205/65 R15 tyres, and the convertible has been taken up extensively by European makers over the past year and is also used on the mid-range and 190 series.

The 65 refers to the aspect ratio of a tyre height of 65 per cent of its width. This is a compromise between the 70 aspect used on many mass

degree of luxury and style unknown in that market. The result is a forward control vehicle in which the engine is placed between driver and front passenger, with room for eight adults in comfort.

The rear compartment is reached through a wide opening sliding door giving access to two rows of seats, the rear-most of which splits down the middle and folds sideways to give a large load area for luggage. The whole vehicle is well carpeted and has two opening roof panels, both tinted. The front panel lifts up at the rear and the second over the centre seats is an electrical operated sliding unit controlled from a panel above the driver.

While the basic concept is that of a small van, the body is unique to the Space Cruiser and very distinctively styled to look sleek and uncommercial. The technical improvements include a new rack and pinion steering layout with variable ratio power assistance, revised front wheel alignment and suspension geometry, improved braking with dual split safety system, incorporating a load sensing and proportioning valve, and revised suspension settings.

The original 1800cc petrol engine gave way to a 2-litre unit some time ago and the fuel tank has been increased from 55 to 60 litres (13.2 gallons).

I have always had a liking for light forward-control vehicles, notably motor caravans, and took to the Space Cruiser the first time. The latest example proved a very lively performer and on a recent continental trip was able to cruise smoothly up to an indicated 86mph. The improved suspension and adoption of larger tyres give a very surefooted feel, free from any

feeling of frontal instability sometimes encountered on vehicles of this configuration. Its comfort and convenience won't over to all who travelled in it and I would be more than content to use this type of vehicle for everyday motoring. The Space Cruiser certainly lacks for nothing in comfort, with electrically operated front windows and a high level of sound insulation among its attributes. There are quite a number in use in my part of the country and the latest improvements should ensure its continuing appeal. Automatic transmission is an option at £500.

Vital statistics
Model: Toyota Space Cruiser 8-seater
Price: £19,350
Engine: 1.998cc four-cylinder, rear-drive
Performance: 0-60 18.0 seconds; top speed 88mph
Official consumption: urban 23.3mpg, 56mph 34.4mpg, 75mph 23.2mpg
Length: 14 feet 3.7 inches
Insurance: Group 5

Towards zero
Citroen has been learning from the Japanese as well as their own experience in adopting a new level of quality control in car plants. The objective is one of "zero defects" and a recent visit to the Rennes factory where it was first adopted showed an intensive attitude to quality at all levels.

Rennes has been producing Citroen cars since 1962 and turns out just over 1,000 BX a day. The zero defect principle is based on two essential factors: the replacement of post-production inspection by inspection during manufacture and the involvement of the whole company.

To facilitate the inspection during assembly, the Japanese Andon system of warning lights is used on the tracks. As the vehicle goes down the assembly line through different work stations, any operator unable to rectify a problem at once pulls a cord which lights up a number above indicating the worker involved. An inspector comes immediately to offer assistance and if he fails the whole track is stopped.

Citroen estimate that this can cost up to a hundred vehicles a day over the full manufacturing capacity, but that the resultant vehicle and lower warranty recall make it all worth the effort.

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CRICKET: PREMIUM ON SPEED UNDERMINING BATSMANSHIP

Change in nature of pitches is the really new phenomenon

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Bridgetown, Barbados
There has never been so much talk as there is now about "uneven bounce". From all around the cricket world, batsmen complain about it as though it is a new phenomenon. But to what extent is that so?
For a start, it has always happened and if a fast bowler bends his back for one ball but not the next the bounce will vary however good the pitch. That is one of the tricks of his trade and the faster the bowler the greater the problem on a batsman. To blame it on the pitch, by calling it uneven bounce, is inaccurate.
What has been happening in the West Indies has been different. All three Test pitches - Sabina Park in Kingston, Queen's Park Oval in Port-of-Spain and Kensington Oval here - have produced palpable shooters on the first day of the matches, and that never used to be the case. In former days it would more likely have been the third or fourth day of a match before the first of them appeared.
At Sabina Park in 1967-1968 you could put your fingers into the cracks that had developed by that stage of a match and it was when the ball hit one of those that it might have kept low. The pitch there was always beautifully flat. Last month it was visibly uneven, so that when the ball pitched on a slight down slope it would shoot whereas from an up slope it might slide.

That is what is meant by uneven bounce and bowlers of the pace of Holding, Marshall, Garner and Patterson can exploit it to devastating effect.
The ridge at Lord's also produced its entirely unpredictable flyers, and there is now talk of a ridge at Sydney having the same effect. At Perth, in Western Australia, which once boasted the fastest and truest pitch in the world, the game has quite changed. Today, more often than not, the ball moves all over the place. Here in Bridgetown, what used to be a lovely pitch for batting has become a fast bowler's playground. They say it has to be kept grassy, otherwise it disintegrates, but how, in that case, did they have some wonderfully good games of cricket when the grass was taken off?
The last of these was 10 years ago when West Indies last-wicket pair survived the final 75 minutes of the match to deny Pakistan victory. Pakistan made 435 and 291, West Indies 421 and 251 for the loss of the third Test. The pitch on which England lost the third Test here recently was, in fact, a lot less green than some. Generally, though, they put altogether too much of a premium on speed, which is, of course, the strongest West Indian skill.
It is the same through most of the Caribbean and this, together with all the short-pitched bowling, is undermining the standards of West Indian batsmanship. Only this week on the alarming shortage of high-scoring young batsmen. The only one under 30 to average over 30, Livingstone Lawrence, came from the Leeward Islands. No fewer than 11 bowlers average under 20 with the ball, eight of them members of the first brigade and two of the others mature off spinners.

Pakistan squander their chances

Colombo (Reuters) - Sri Lanka's fourth-wicket pair, Asanka Gurusinghe and Arjuna Ranatunga, battled through the final day of the third Test match against Pakistan yesterday to force a draw that left the series tied 1-1.
Gurusinghe, aged only 19, made 116 not out, his first Test century, as he and Ranatunga, who had a lot of faith in these umpires through eight catches going down during the final day, Ranatunga was dropped five times - at 7, 10, 12, 25 and 26 - twice each by Salim and Javed in the slips and once by the wicketkeeper, Zulqarnain.
Imran, the Pakistan captain, said: "I have never been so embarrassed by our fielding. I am ashamed to be part of a fielding side like this," but he defended Gurusinghe's batting. "He played a very mature and gutsy innings which I feel was the best of the series." But he said he had been very happy with the umpires in this Test.
They were good and I have no complaints. We had a lot of faith in these umpires through eight catches going down during the final day. Ranatunga was



Clare Wood: the spring winner after a discouraging winter (Photograph: Tommy Hindley)

Youngsters take the stage against a bleak backdrop

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent
Clare Wood, of Haywards Heath, aged 17, beat Torquay's Valda Lake, aged 17, by 7-5, 6-4 in the final of the British Women's Tennis Association spring tournament at Queen's Club, West Kensington, yesterday.
Her mother played table tennis for England for 10 years and there is a remote blood link with the 1961 Wimbledon champion, Angela Mortimer.
In short, these are interesting and promising players and, as it happens, attractive young women. Their problem, shared with a host of others, is that the winter is only half-used (a charitable estimate) in terms of competitive preparation for the tournaments ahead, the most immediate being the British junior championships.
The idea for the past four days was to play outdoors on shale. Well, they played outdoors, but often on the hard, all-weather courts alongside the LTA offices. You know the kind of weather we have had: the final had to be shifted from shale to a surface that absorbs rain faster. Even so, the match began an hour late, the footpath was some way short of perfection, and the wind became a nuisance.
Some of the spectators were better known than the players. Iles had come up from Eastbourne to watch Miss Wood, Susan Mappin, the women's national team manager, emerged from her office to point out that two BWTA tour-

RUGBY LEAGUE
Four clubs hot on heels of Halifax

By Keith Macklin
Decisive matches in the race for the championship will be played during the Easter weekend, and several of those games will be decided in a full Good Friday programme today. Halifax are the leaders, with Wigan, Leeds and Hull Kingston Rovers, chasing them with matches in hand.
Halifax travel to Castleford to meet the Wembley finalists, and the outcome of this game could depend on whether Castleford are in a mood to emphasize the justice of their Wembley appearance, or are content to rest on their laurels and ride their remaining league fixtures comfortably. This latter option could prove dangerous, since Castleford are uncomfortably near the relegation zone, and I imagine they will lift their game against the league leaders.
Wigan make the short journey to St Helens for the traditional ground-packing derby game. Ella and Gill expect to be fit, and Wigan will face a St Helens side who could be demoralized by the club's decision to place five players on the transfer list, including Harry Finner, the club and Great Britain captain, who cost £95,000. Again, the attitude of the players is a toss-up. The Saints may collapse under the weight of the controversial listing of Finner, or the side will rise to great heights with the backing of the huge crowd.
Warrington had their championship hopes badly bruised by defeat at Bradford on Wednesday, but they can climb back into contention by winning yet another traditional holiday derby at home to Widnes.
In the second division Barrow and Leigh, the runaway promotion favourites, are in action. Barrow visit Blackpool Borough to face a team capable of rising to the occasion, while Leigh will expect to complete the double over Rochdale Hornets, the contenders for the third promotion place.
Not engaged today because of tomorrow's challenge cup semi-final are Hull Kingston Rovers. This adds to their appalling fixture congestion, which involves the playing of 10 games in 23 days, a ludicrously cruel situation which could rob Rovers of the championship they currently hold.
Des Drummond, Leigh's world record £120,000-listed Great Britain winger, has been suspended by the second division leaders for a fortnight. Leigh have banned Drummond after a heated exchange with a director following last Sunday's league win over Huddersfield.
A League spokesman said: "Efforts to restore peace with Des at the club have taken place but the player has been unwilling to accept his suspension." Drummond replied: "A packed players bar was not the right place. I've been training and it's obvious I want to play."

DRESSAGE
Eilberg is on his own

By Jenny McArthur
Ferdinand Eilberg, on Giovanni and David Hunt on Maple Zenith, both professionals, once again took the honours at yesterday's Dressage Selection Trials at Stoneleigh in Warwickshire. Eilberg and Giovanni capped their win in Wednesday's advanced class with an even better performance for victory in yesterday's Grand Prix, beating Hunt, the runner-up, by 14 marks.
Lady Joicey and her homebred Powdermonkey also confirmed the form they have shown abroad during the winter with an authoritative test which earned them third place and, not surprisingly, a place on the short list for the team for the World Championship in Canada in August.
But the most eye-catching performance came from Frances Rudge on Florida Flash, who finished fifth behind Jennie Loriston-Clarke on Dutch Gold. A former eventer, Florida Flash

RACING RESULTS

Ludlow
2.15 (2m 1h) 1. THEODORUS (P) 2.15 (2m 1h) 1. THEODORUS (P) 2.15 (2m 1h) 1. THEODORUS (P)
Southwell
2.15 (2m 1h) 1. WELSH OAK (P) 2.15 (2m 1h) 1. WELSH OAK (P)
RACKETS
Tonbridge pair are brilliant
By William Stephens
Tonbridge yesterday recorded their fourth win of the public schools' championship since 1981 when they defeated trophy through Jonathan Longley and James Waters defeating Clifton (Giles Palmer and Damian White) 15-12, 15-1, 15-2, 15-8 in the final at Queen's Club.

HOCKEY
UAU get sweet revenge

By Sydney Friskin
UAU regained the British Universities Sports Federation title after beating Scotland in the final at Loughborough yesterday. It was their ninth outright win, the honours having been shared in 1974 with Oxford.
Scotland who had beaten UAU 3-2 in the group which could not recover the sparkle they had shown against London whom they had defeated 2-1 after extra time in Wednesday's semi-final. UAU, who had an easier 4-1 win over their second team in the same day, looked more composed yesterday.
Only after Scotland reduced the lead to 2-1 in the second half did they pose a threat. They had five short corners in this period but did not have enough variety in their drill to confound the UAU defence.
UAU went ahead in the seventh minute when Bloxham converted a short corner. David Barber consolidated their position in the 25th minute by scoring from a penalty stroke. It was conceded by Williams who was judged to have put a high kick to the ball as it was travelling into goal off Skinner's scoop. Scotland's goal was scored by Bradley from a pass by Stanfield.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Advertisement for The Sunday Times Easter issue. Text: 'All that's best in the biggest ever Easter issue - 88 pages plus Colour magazine'. Includes images of a woman in a black and white dress and a man in a suit. Sub-headings: 'PARIS FASHION SPECTACULAR', 'SOUTH AFRICA IN BLACK AND WHITE Woodrow Wyatt's diary', 'Easter special: what do Christians believe in these days?', 'COLOUR MAGAZINE After ego: picking a wedding gown that can be worn again and again', 'AMERICA STRIKES BACK Duel at the line of death', 'FIVE PAGES OF EASTER SPORT', 'DRINKS AND DRUGS Industry under the influence Egon Ronay hits out at wine snobs', 'THE GREAT TOWN HALL FIASCO', 'Sunday isn't Sunday without the Sunday Times'.

FOR THE RECORD

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RESULTS:
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Robson's boldness gives wings to winning England strategy

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

The statistics were being prepared in the press box as the England team walked out into the huge Dynamo Tbilisi stadium on Wednesday evening. The fact that they had not lost by more than two goals since Bobby Robson took over seemed sure to be mentioned in the subsequent match report.

It seemed ominous that Robson had happened to mention it the previous day in the middle of revealing the extent of the injuries to the members of his squad. "We'll be OK," he said. It sounded like a cry of defiance, but those who heard it were not ready to share his confidence.

When the line-up was revealed on Wednesday morning, all optimism withered. It was surely dangerously adventurous in the circumstances to select a winger, but Robson had said that he wanted to find out if the system that he had favoured for so long would work at the highest level and he stuck courageously to his principle.

In doing so he risked ending England's sequence of seven matches without defeat and of damaging the confidence and belief of his squad. It was

ironic, therefore, that Waddle, the lone winger in the party, should score the one decisive goal in a victory that was as gloriously unexpected as that in Brazil in 1984.

Waddle himself admitted as much. "There has been a lot of talk about wingers recently," he said later, "so it was obviously a good time to score." It was only his second goal in his 13 appearances and almost certainly saved the role that either he or Barnes has filled since the end of the South American tour two years ago.

Both of them have since failed to be convincing and, if Waddle had done so again, Robson would have been tempted to clip his one wing and revert to a midfield of four. He did so, anyway, for the closing 15 minutes on Wednesday by bringing on Steven in place of Waddle.

But, although the contribution of Cowans was disappointingly fragile, the midfield controlled England's unforeseen triumph. Wilkins, so admirable in Israel last month, was outstanding. Robson described his performance as "absolutely superb" and pointed out that he never

shirked a tackle. The talented Hoddle, too, was again responsible for some delightfully incisive passing.

Wright's vulnerability was once more disturbing. As the Soviets awoke from their astonishingly uncertain and nonchalant start, he was guilty of several moments of wild rashness. Robson thought that he was "splendid" but conceded that he "made one mistake that could have been punished". For a defender that is one too many.

Wright's error led, indirectly, to the penalty conceded by Anderson, that was missed by Chivadze after a quarter of an hour. If the Soviet captain had scored instead of almost uprooting a post, the crowd of 62,000 might have been stirred from their extraordinary apathy.

Hurt by defeat in Mexico and in Spain earlier this year, the Soviets were devoid of passion. Zavarov, who is sure to become one of the more attractive individuals in Mexico this summer, was almost alone in lifting their enfeebled display. But that should not diminish the credit that was deservedly claimed by England.

Their journey was lengthy, the facilities in their hotel could hardly have been more spartan, their preparations could scarcely have been less favourable and Robson's plans were severely disrupted on the eve of the fixture.

Instead of folding underneath such problems the squad responded in an enthusiastic and responsible manner.

In becoming the first visitors to win or even to score in the Soviet Union since West Germany in 1979 (apart from Czechoslovakia's victory in an Olympic qualifying tie two years ago), England sent a warning around the world. As Waddle said: "If we play like that in Mexico, we'll take some beating."

Moscow (Reuter) - Soviet newspapers complained yesterday at the national team's lack of firepower after the defeat by England. "They have not yet learnt to score," *Sovetsky Sport* headlined its report from Tbilisi and reproached the team for inaccurate shooting. "There were two or three dangerous moments near the England goal, and that was all," Lev Lebedev, *Pravda's* correspondent, lamented.

Bingham's options look too limited

By Clive White

It is generally accepted that Northern Ireland's shield of invincibility will become as thin as the air in Guadalajara at this summer's World Cup finals.

The altitude and the heat of Mexico will put all the European contenders at a serious disadvantage, but none more so than the Irish, whose game draws more heavily on physical than perhaps any other team in the world.

Sepp Piontek, the manager of Denmark, the latest European power - albeit a depleted one - to be frustratingly defused by Irish fortitude, does not believe that what Northern Ireland achieved in the gloom and mud and an refreshing rain of Windsor Park on Wednesday evening can be repeated in South America.

Even Billy Bingham, at the height of celebrations after his 50th match in charge, had to concede the Irish will have to adjust their style.

The extent of that modification can only be minimal. Their deficiency in skill at the highest level and lack of real improvisation in attack have always been a little team for manoeuvre. It must be a source of regret to Bingham that a country which threw up such prodigious forward talent as Peter Doherty in the 1950s and the inimitable George Best in the 1960s and 1970s cannot unearth a match-winner in the 1980s at a time when they have never been better equipped to defend an advantage.

Instead they have something approaching a luxury in defensive qualities. With their seventh consecutive game without defeat and only one goal conceded in 10 hours and 15 minutes of football against the world's best, it would take a mad meddler to tamper with the defence.

Consequently, McClelland, arguably their most dependable defender in the evocative World Cup campaign of 1982 and the double over West Germany, finds himself on the sidelines with the boot on the other foot. He draws a parallel with 1982 when an injury to O'Neill enabled him to smash himself in the side for Spain.

McClelland's foot injury, now perfectly healed, has even McDonald's chance and he has seized it with zeal, starting in each of his first four international and capping Wednesday's 1-1 draw with Denmark by giving Northern Ireland the lead for 78 minutes with a header.

Nevertheless the suggestion that the Irish centre backs could be exposed for lack of pace and flexibility on a less cloying surface than Windsor Park remains. And since Northern Ireland's final rehearsal for Mexico is at home against the Moroccan, on April 23 we may not discover the truth until they face Spain in their second, possibly most decisive, match of the World Cup.

Rampant Scotland must not throw caution to the wind

By David Miller

It would be ungracious, even if there are some reservations, not to congratulate Scotland upon their emphatic win over Romania on Wednesday night to their last home match before the World Cup finals.

They were often exciting when going forward; Strachan on the right flank of midfield, Gough behind him, and Bannan on the left of midfield had their side pouring into attack against a Romanian team adroit with the ball, though visibly lacking commitment.

"Three-nil is very good language and Strachan had a terrific game," Franz Beckenbauer said afterwards, having studied one of West Germany's three first-round opponents after presenting Kenny Dalglish with a silver and gold trophy to mark the first Scotsman reaching 100 caps.

"All four teams in our group will be roughly equal, I think, and the top two will probably need some luck," Beckenbauer said. Schuster, who returned after injury to the Barcelona team on Sunday, had to decide by the end of this week, Beckenbauer said, whether he would join the German squad. "We have talked long enough."

It is the ability of a player such as Schuster or Laudrup or Denmark, together with the Scots' own commendable enthusiasm for throwing themselves forward, which obliges me to have reservations about Scotland's prospects. Alex Ferguson, the manager, allowably satisfied with this performance, did admit afterwards that there were in the first half one or two moments when the defence was a bit too positive (going forward) - a phrase which would be another word for it.

With all four midfield men, indeed, Saunders, looking to cover in front of the back four, who, but for some resolute and well-timed tackles by Miller, would have had their record of conceding only one goal in their last eight matches rudely denied. As it is, Romania is twice hit the bar and missed two inviting chances. Hagl, Camarata and Coras were too often allowed sight of Goram, who performed ably as deputy goalkeeper.

Scotland will need to be more circumspect, I feel, in next month's encounters at Wembley and in Eindhoven, and Ferguson should also look carefully at the matter of Scotland's style of play for Mexico. Strachan, Bannan and Gough cover much ground, but at such an expense of energy may not be possible at altitudes, where the ball must do the work. That is why, although

Ferguson is temperamentally committed to the Aberdeen centre-backs, Miller and consider the value of the hugely experienced, ball-playing Hansen, who brought imaginative distribution from the back in the second half when he came on for the slightly injured Miller.

The connoisseurs' joy of the evening came, suitably, from the evergreen Dalglish, now in his 35th year, who failed to gain a record-making 31st international goal but gave a classic exhibition of the control, vision, anticipation and economy which have distinguished his career. He began to move, as among many others, for the first two goals by Strachan and Gough with zephyr-like feints, and regularly retained possession when surrounded by two or three opponents: a coach's dream.

He is indispensable to Scotland's planning, though modestly, he says that he will discuss the course with Ferguson whether he is in condition for Mexico. Mentally, he is a lap ahead of the rest.

Scotland's group may be formidable, but there is evidence that they are going to put up an exciting campaign to reach the second round.

Reluctant sale of Fashanu

Millwall's hooligan element caused the £125,000 transfer of forward John Fashanu yesterday to their second division rivals, Wimbledon.

The Millwall manager, George Burdett, is selling Fashanu, but his chairman, Alan Thorne, insisted he had to go in order to help to balance the books following the three-month all-ticket ruling for home matches.

In other moves before the transfer deadline, Martin O'Neill signed for Fulham, aiming to complete a remarkable comeback which will put him in the Northern Ireland squad for the World Cup finals.

Wolves signed an 18-year-old midfielder, Russell Turley, from Nottingham Forest on a free transfer. Huddersfield signed a Chelsea reserve forward, Duncan Shearer, for a small fee, and released Dale Tappes on loan to Gillingham. Derby County signed the West Bromwich Albion defender, Mike Forsyth, for £20,000. Southampton have York's Keith Houches for the same price.

Wolves signed Scotland's midfielder player, Pat Heard, on loan; the Derby County forward, Steve Biggins, joined Port Vale on loan.

The Grimsby forward, Tony Ford, has joined Sunderland until the end of the season;

Oxford pair please Charlton

From Eamon Dunphy, Dublin

There was nothing grand about Jack Charlton's introduction to international team management. Wales provided the opposition; the wind blew and rain lashed; most Irish football followers stayed home to watch England on television; the Lansdowne pitch was bumpy; and Jack's new team lost to a goal punched by Wales from a set-piece early on.

Inauspicious is not the word. Backstage afterwards Charlton remained on good terms with himself and the world. Friendly internationals are false, this one particularly so, because so many established players withdrew because of injury.

Jack had lost eight including Mark Lawrenson, Kevin Steady and Frank Stapleton. The day had been part of the learning process. He had learned a lot, he proclaimed, jaw set in grim determination. Jack is not subtle, he does not mess about. You could tell he did not mind losing and was big enough to deal with the Irish public's sense of anticlimax. It was equally clear that what pleased him pleased him very much and that what did not please him would be sorted out quickly.

"I knew what I wanted and I told the players," he explained. "Some of them did their stuff, some did not. Most pleasing from his point of view were the performances of the Oxford United pair upon whom he had bestowed Irish citizenship. Ray Houghton and John Aldridge. Both played magnificently in difficult circumstances.

Houghton on the right side of midfield was quick, cheeky and skilful. He is a find for Ireland. Aldridge had the unenviable task of partnering flashy Michael Robinson, up front. Queen's Park Rangers, up front. While his partner put on his usual sporting and tumbling display, Aldridge worked intelligently and tirelessly with a ready eye for the half-chance. He had the back luck to hit the woodwork twice.

Aldridge and Houghton are types who would never get in an England side; but that is England's problem for they are good professional team players, the kind of footballers that Northern Ireland have in abundance. As Glen Hoddle will tell you, football is a team game.

Jack Charlton has declared his intentions in the context of his Republic of Ireland will embrace the collective ethos - which begs the question of Liam

Brady, Ireland's Glen Hoddle. Although he did not spell it out; Charlton may well have been referring to Brady when he spoke of "those who did not do their stuff" on Wednesday. Jack had redefined Brady's midfield role. He wanted the latter to play a more attacking position behind Aldridge and Robinson. Alas, Brady looked lost possessing neither the physical sharpness nor the football intelligence to impose himself on the game.

Heavy-legged and lost, Brady resembled nothing more than a 29-year-old child on whom too much intelligence had been lavished. It will be fascinating to see what Big Jack does about Brady. Nobody has cause to doubt Charlton's conviction, it is indeed his greatest asset, but the Brady problem may require all the conviction his manager possesses.

The discovery of Houghton and Aldridge adds considerably to an already talented squad. Next month Uruguay visit Dublin and ahead lie the European championships where the Republic must face Scotland, Belgium and Bulgaria. Although there have been doubts about Jack Charlton's commitment to football he seems excited by the challenge of the international game, and he is still out for the rest of the season.

Everton has recalled Bobby Mimms, the reserve goalkeeper, who was on loan with Notts County and hopes to sign further cover yesterday.

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Barbarians say farewell to Penarth

By Gerald Davies

Cardiff on Easter Saturday and Swansea on Monday. Surely in this day and crowded age of over-serious sport, the Corinthian still has his place, the player who dares to do things as the spirit moves him. British rugby owes the Barbarians a debt and will continue to do so. Turning a blind eye to their style has cost the game dearly in this country in recent years and cold shouldering them out will do no good at all. Their rotation, though they do not always succeed is to go out and win, but also that the game should be spiced with elements of risk and, dare I say it, fun.

It is a little ironic that, in what is proving to be their best season for many a year, Penarth should be saying the Barbarians for the last time this afternoon in their traditional and important Good Friday fixture. After 75 years the Barbarians will bid farewell to the Seaside.

The first Easter matches in Wales were considered to be the cornerstone of Barbarian tradition; a foundation which has eroded somewhat and has not been able to withstand the winds of rugby change. Three years ago saw the game with Newport struck from the fixture list, now it is Penarth's turn, leaving only



Stripes galore: Players from Royal Belfast (left) and St Bees dispute possession

Under-23s turn to capped players

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Six senior capped players have been chosen for England's under-23 team to play Spain at Twickenham on April 9, among them Nigel Redman, the Bath lock, who will captain the side. Always been alongside him, Richards, the Leicester No. 8, and in the back division Simms, Clough, Barnes and Underwood.

It comes as a faint surprise to find Barnes is still eligible for the England team. He first appeared in 1982. It is also a debatable point whether players who have already appeared for England at senior level should also be selected at this level but in this instance - and it has not always been the case - the sole criterion has been whether or not players have the birth qualification.

All too fresh in the minds of the selectors moreover is the defeat inflicted by Spain upon England's seven in Sydney at the weekend. That may not bear too much relation to the 15-a-side game but it is a warning none the less that Spain prepared thoroughly for that tournament and will be keen to make a similar impression on their next match visit to England. Their two heroes in Sydney, Rivero and Puertas, at wing and full back respectively, are both in the party which will play Devon and Cornwall at Torquay on April 6.

The selectors picked the team after watching the combined English students beat Welsh students 27-15 at Cambridge on Wednesday evening, despite the surrender of an early 15-0 lead. Although the four English backs (Nelson-Williams scored twice, Risman and Oti registered the others), two forwards obviously confirmed earlier good impressions: Mullins, the Durham University prop, will appear against Spain, as will Robinson, the Loughborough and Bath flanker.

Flyers are thin on the ground

By Peter Marjoss

The Divers Club National Schools seven-a-side tournament might have enjoyed better weather than for many a year, and for that a multitude of players will have been there. They were able to give the ball air in firm grip, but the absence of a flyer has been a common factor among the majority of schools in the two major competitions, the Festival and the Open, whose final rounds took place at Rochampton yesterday.

West Park, prompted by David Pilkington, one of the tournament's more skilful players, most certainly would have profited from fielding a speedy runner and someone to finish off their movements in the quarter-final against Newcastle-under-Lyme, to whom they lost by two tries to nil.

The big surprise in the sixth round, was the narrow defeat of the much-fancied Millfield side by a big, marauding seven from Campion.

Newcastle-under-Lyme's success against Hampton was a close-run thing, too, but West Park's subtleties confounded a gallant side from Aylesbury who were overwhelmed 19-0.

Wolverston Hall made a good impression by beating City of London, Warwick's competent side knew 100 much, for Cwmtwyn and Aylesbury's greater speed and skill enabled them to usher in three tries by half-time against Ashville.

South Down, St Edmund's, St. POG Galloway, St. Campton, St. Malindin, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Hampton, City of London, West Park, City of London, 12, Wolverston, Hall, 16; Cwmtwyn G, Warwick, 17; Ashville 6, Ampleforth, 18.

QUARTER-FINALS: St. Edmund's G, Campton, 20; Newcastle-under-Lyme, West Park, 0; Wolverston Hall G, Warwick, 30.

JUNIOR (Under 13) FINAL: Dulwich College 10, Flogston 6.

Record fee asked

Harry Pinner, the St. Helens and Great Britain rugby league captain, has been transferred for a club record fee of £95,000.

Table with 2 columns: Football, Rugby League. Lists fixtures for various leagues including the Championship, Division One, and Division Two.

Table with 2 columns: Hockey, Other Sport. Lists fixtures for hockey and other sports like basketball and tennis.

Table with 2 columns: Wednesday's results, Rugby Union. Lists results of matches and fixtures for the rugby union.

Wilkie takes on tough mission with Barrow. Ray Wilkie, who for the last two years has combined the posts of chairman and manager of Gateshead, has left the club to become manager of Barrow. He succeeds David Johnson, the former England forward, who faces a difficult task keeping Barrow in the Gola League.

Paul Newman. Gateshead lead the Multipart League and are pressing for a return to the Gola League at the first attempt. Bill McCullough, Barrow's chairman, said: "We've made some managerial appointments in recent times, but I'm convinced Ray will do a good job for us. His record of the last few years is second to none."

Boot money. Chelsea, the only club without a sponsor, have secured two deals with West German firms. They have signed a "lucrative" two-year deal with Puma, the sportswear firm, to wear their boots.

ENTERTAINMENTS. A large advertisement section containing various listings for cinemas, art galleries, and other entertainment venues. Includes titles like 'The Right Place to Park Your Car' and 'The Times'.

United poised to gamble their final ace

By David Miller

Manchester United's ailing pursuit of the League championship, which they last won in 1967, is being held up not by the proverbial shoelace but by a shoulder brace. Bryan Robson, the fulcrum of the both United and the England international team, said yesterday that he was prepared to play for the rest of the season and throughout the World Cup wearing the harness which he used in Wednesday's reserve match against Leicester City.

This desperate, last-ditch attempt to revive United's prospects, which have slipped so persistently in Robson's absence during a succession of injuries, is a calculated gamble on his long-term physical health, which it is to be hoped will not be jeopardized, knowing that the realistic step at this time is an operation following two dislocations.

Robson, one of the bravest players you will find, yesterday said, full of assurance: "I felt completely secure on Wednesday night and was not aware of the presence of the harness." But that is not to say it can fully protect him.

He will play at St Andrews tomorrow and, there being no further problems, in the critical clash with Everton at Old Trafford on Monday. It is three weeks since he

dislocated his shoulder for the second time, at West Ham, and he has now missed 25 senior games this season. Clearly, Robson is a willing party to the gamble but it is ill-advised if he is being exalted to take the risks by a crowd craving for success.

There are people within the club and among supporters, who suspect that Manchester United are too concerned with commercial ends. The club have been foremost of those trying to achieve re-acceptance for entry into European

More football, page 30

competition, a move which John Smith, the chairman of Liverpool, has said would be unwise.

Equally disturbing is the transfer turnover by Ron Atkinson, at times bordering on the frantic, and also the fact that Martin Edwards, the managing director who is probably the best paid man in British football, takes 1 per cent of any profit on the year's transfers. Had Atkinson not bought the two Gibsons and Davenport, the sale of Hughes to Barcelona for £2 million could have been worth £20,000 personally to Edwards.

This willingness to sell players, with the announcement coming, as in the case of Wilkins two years ago, at the climax of the League season, can hardly be good for dressing-room morale or for loyalty among the most exceptional supporters in the land. It is understood that in addition to Hughes and Brazil, there were proposed transfers abroad of Whiteside and Stapleton, to which the players refused.

Robson's injuries is out the only aspect of policy in which the club seem to be acting on

an optimistic toss of the dice rather than patient cohesion. Olsen has been dropped because, seemingly, he does not deliver away from home. A club with United's strength in depth should have been able to find a system which utilized Olsen's special skills. Or did they not really need both Olsen and Strachan? And Barnes too?

How hard have United, with their substantial resources, attempted to persuade Hughes to stay? Integrating Davenport, as any manager knows, may take a year or more. Atkinson has, partially unnecessarily, found himself in the position of an international manager, confused by an abundance of talent and choice, when, as Liverpool, Everton and West Ham have proved, simplicity is the key.

Concern about Robson is not their only anxiety for the match against Birmingham. Atkinson has to decide who shall partner McGrath at centre back. Moran is out for the rest of the season, Higgins was suspended on his return to first team football against Manchester City last week, while Hogg is only just feeling his way back in the reserves after an operation. The answer to an emergency role, which he has previously filled during the course of a match because of injury. None of this can help United's stability but with what should be an easy match tomorrow, they could strike a vital blow on Monday, when Everton will have Mimms, an untried reserve goalkeeper signed from Rotherham, exposed to the intensity of a 50,000 Mancunian crowd looking for a return of the title they so long ago regarded as theirs.



In the frame for the big race: Carole Burton, coxswain, and the Cambridge crew (Photograph: Tommy Hindley)

Art of not living dangerously

By Jim Railton

Oxford and Cambridge, continuing the countdown for tomorrow's Boat Race, were yesterday rehearsing the ritual of its start. The preparations are so precise because the crews must be ready for the off and on the stake boats before 3.15. Crucially, too, the coxswains will be under the eagle eye of the umpire, Michael Sweeney.

In last year's race the coxes lived dangerously. Somehow the oars were intermeshed in a form of nautical jousting, but luckily there was no disastrous clash. Oxford's Seth Lesser and Cambridge's Henrietta Shaw appeared to have the death wish.

There has been only one foul awarded in the Boat Race

and that was in 1849 when Oxford were awarded the race. This year the coxswains, Andy Green and Carole Burton, will need no reminding that they have a tough umpire in charge. If they are hard of hearing then deaf aids should be the order of the day.

It is no easy task coxing a formula one racing shell on the Queen's highway, devoid of a line to indicate the Surrey and Middlesex stations. There can be a degree of subjectivity and certainly, in normal conditions, the coxswains will be fighting for the centre of the tide.

The other problem is that Oxford and Cambridge appear to have different road maps of

the Tideway and interpretations of the correct stations. Last year's rehearsal was hilarious. The coxes drove the coaching launches side by side from Putney to Mortlake. Henrietta Shaw drove Amariylos and Seth Lesser Bosporos with the umpire, Ronnie Howard, in pursuit. By all accounts, the launches were lucky to survive and became nautical dodge cars.

Let tomorrow's coxswains beware. Mike Sweeney is a tough character as well as being an international umpire. If necessary he will disqualify and that would be a sad end to a 132nd Boat Race.

TODAY'S OUTINGS (from Putney): Oxford: 9am and 1.30pm. Cambridge: 9am and 2pm.

OXFORD: G R Serrano (Magdalen College School and Merton), bow; D H Macdonald (Merton's Academy and Mansfield); M R Dunsan (St Owen's; Crispington and Worcester); G R D Jones (Sydney University and New College); B M Philp (Brynant, Cambridge University and Worcester); C H Clark (Caffris University and University); G Livingston (California University and Oriel); A M S Thomas (Worcester and Pembroke), stroke; A S Green (Haberghampton's Asia's and Christ Church), cox. CAMBRIDGE: I R Clark (Stourport HS and Fitzwilliam), bow; M Wilson (Princeton University and Trinity Hall); J D Hughes (Bristol Modern and Downing); J S Paw (Stanford University and Trinity); B M Peal (King's, Chester and Downing); R B Broughton (Kelly College, Southampton University and Magdalen); E A F Gibbons (Queen's University, Ontario and Churchill); M Pritchard (St Clement Danes and Robinson), stroke; C A Burton (Alton Otley and Fitzwilliam), cox.

Inns on course to beat Oxford

The Cambridge Boat Race crew have called their blade fin, canary yellow craft, "The Hell Boat." Indeed, one sees Cambridge oarsmen as a bunch of damned souls, condemned to eternal frustration as, for 10 long years, Oxford have heaped the coals of defeat on top of them. But this year, all that is going to change.

Certainly, it is easy enough to believe this, when you go down to Putney and sniff the British mood of the Cambridge crew. John Pritchard, the vastly experienced stroke, said: "A lot of training and rowing is gruelling—in fact, bloody boring is a more accurate description. The only reason I do it is because I am good at it. But last weekend, we came off the river after a practice, and we were smiling. And if a crew can smile after rowing, then you know you've got something special."

Cambridge start level in the betting with Oxford. They were fancied last year to end the long losing streak but failed. This year, they say, it will all be different. Alan Inns, the coach, has restructured the selection programme and the training programme "from top to bottom," he says. This is his first full year in charge of Cambridge and his plans for starting with a winner are, he believes, looking good.

Last year, the crew was close for a long way. Cambridge rowed alongside Oxford for two and a half miles but could not stay there and slowly fell away. It won't happen this year, Inns believes: "I have placed the stress on endurance work. We have done long pieces of rowing and multiple repetition in the gym, repetition and mileage."

Inns has been backed up by the Canadian, Neil Campbell, in the coaching. Campbell, a renowned, heavy-chested motivator, who has led his Canadian crew to a gold medal at the last Olympic Games. "They're such different people, the two coaches," the Cambridge president, Quentin Travis, said. "Neil is emotional and Alan is a scheming little bastard. They are a good team."



Robson: worth the risk

GOLF: LANGER FIGHTS TO KEEP ALIVE; IRISH PAIRS WITH COMPETITIVE BITE

Male pride upheld in final round

By John Hennessy

Masculine pride was finally upheld when Ron Rafferty and Roger Chapman, professionals from Ireland and England respectively, won the Sunningdale Foursomes yesterday. They inflicted a rare defeat, by one hole, on the Irish amateur pair, Mary McKenna and Maurice Garner (née Madill).

It was only the third setback for the women in 30 matches in this competition. They were receiving nine strokes from

the men, a handicap that other players had declared impossible, but Rafferty and Chapman, perhaps profiting from external agency, won the 17th to go one up and realize expectations by retaining their lead, though Miss McKenna and Mrs Garner hunted them all the way up the 18th.

It was a match undistinguished for its golf, rather as if both pairs had left their best form in the clubhouse at lunch.

Day of mixed fortunes

From Mitchell Platts Ponte Vedra, Florida

Tony Sills, aged 30, from California, improved his prospects of a first tour victory with an opening round of 66 in the Tournament Players championship here yesterday as Bernhard Langer relied heavily on his putter to keep his own chances alive.

Langer looked extremely comfortable on the greens throughout his opening nine holes, but his striking from tee to green lacked its usual consistency. He started at the tenth hole and there were some outstanding shots, like the aggressive seven iron he fired straight at the stick at the 13th (172 yards), but he was too often fighting for pars after wayward shots.

He took single putts at three of his first four holes, twice for birdies, and he was required to do so again at the long 14th to avoid dropping more than one shot after a pushed drive and a pulled eight iron which left the ball in a bunker.

Langer struck another disaster in the face at the long 16th. He gambled on going for the

green from 240 yards out but he succeeded only in finding a watery grave with his fairway wood shot. A seven looked on the cards but he once again got up and down and another single putt at the 18th enable him to turn in 36.

Langer has been experimenting this season with the Pelz Putter, which utilizes three golf balls for alignment, but he will not be too concerned if the United States Golf Association succeed in their efforts to outlaw the short-face version of the putter. The USGA has stated that it does not conform to the Rules of Golf but a temporary restraining order has been filed in the federal court by the Dave Pelz Golf Company.

Langer has only employed the putter in three tournaments but he has found tremendous value in using it on the practice putting green. That, of course, he will be able to continue to do even if the putter, which is regularly used by the American golfer D. A. Weiringer, is outlawed.

Weiringer, however, is concerned as, of course, is Pelz, with the USGA's verdict but

as the short-face version has a striking face of 2.2 inches compared with a length of 3 inches it does not conform to the rules. There is a back blade, which is 5.2 inches wide, but the USGA has questioned its function and told Pelz the putter "is not traditional".

Weiringer, who was runner-up in the Tournament Players championship last year, says: "It is definitely not a gimmick. It is the product of extensive research designed to provide better alignment, club balance and acceleration. You just have to accept it looks ugly."

Meanwhile Langer, using a conventional putter, attempted to remain in touch with a galaxy of players who took advantage of calm conditions to make encouraging starts. They included Boh Tway, out in a five-under-par 31, and Lanny Wadkins, Mark O'Meara, Andy Bean and Jim Thorpe, who all turned in 32.

Reign ended

England's grip on the Vilmorin Cup women's amateur golf trophy came to an end at Saint-Cloud yesterday.

ATHLETICS

Ailing Cram will stick to his plans

By Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent

The catalogue of Steve Cram's ailments is getting as long as his list of athletic achievements. After finishing a "pathetic" 15th in the Newcastle city-centre road race on Wednesday, Cram went into hospital yesterday for tests to discover how bad are the kidney stones which curtailed his training leading up to the race.

In addition to Achilles tendon injuries, "compartment syndrome", runners' knees, sprained ankles and the like, the world, European, and Commonwealth 1,500 metres champion has had the kidney problem, albeit less acute, for more than five years.

Occasional hospital treatment has helped to cure the problem in the past, but although Cram admits it will not constitute a grave setback to training, he may need laser treatment to dispense them this time.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Football

Leighton set-back for Scots

Scotland's World Cup preparations have received a severe jolt with the revelation that Jim Leighton, their first-choice goalkeeper, may not be available for a month. Leighton will miss Scotland's last two internationals before the finals in Mexico, against England at Wembley on April 23 and Netherlands in Eindhoven six days later.

Twin call-up

Chris Bailey, aged 17, of Norfolk, and Hampshire's Lawrence Matthews, aged 18, have been called up by the British national tennis team manager, Paul Hutchins, to the new Laing LTA 1986 team. The pair join existing members, Austen Brice (Cheshire) and Jason Goodall (Berkshire), in a squad which will compete in European junior tournaments. Hutchins said: "They are both in their final year as juniors and will benefit tremendously."

Service return

Prague (AP) - Marioua Navratilova will be allowed to return to her native Czechoslovakia to play Federation Cup tennis for the United States from July 21 to 27, the Czechoslovak Sports Union confirmed. She has not returned since her defection in 1975.

Charity goals

Kenny Dalglish has pledged to help the Scottish public who have helped him become one of the country's best-loved footballers. The Liverpool player-manager, who won his 100th cap against Romania on Wednesday, is to give a "substantial sum" from his testamentary fund to charities.

Sibson bout

Tony Sibson continues his bout-a-month campaign when he meets Alex Ramos, of the United States, on April 16. It will be the third instalment of his comeback which has brought him two impressive wins. The contest will be staged at the Royalty Theatre in London.

ATHLETICS

Pinch-up ends a black weekend

Cambridge have certainly had their share of hard times on the way to the race. The big freeze meant frozen then right. Certainly it froze the river at Ely, where they train, a problem Oxford never face, since the Thames, where they train, never freezes. The answer was to go down to London to train, which involved a succession of two and a half hour trips by van, followed by nights on people's floors. The long journey, with the windows closed and the heaters on, were a splendidly efficient means of ensuring cross-infection: a ferocious flu bug made the rounds of the crew, making training with the full crew impossible for weeks.

One black weekend, their van broke down, one crew member put his back out and had to withdraw, they put a hole in their brand new boat, and because the weather was so terrible they couldn't train on the tideway and went to train in the dock — and discovered the gate shut and a poisonous smog, so the session had to be cancelled. To add the final touch to a glorious weekend, there was a fight between two members of the Goltie crew.

"It was a way it was good for the crew," Travis said. "It kept them back and prevented us from peaking too early. More importantly, it developed a maturity in the crew; we have faced every difficulty possible and coped." It was a winter packed with difficulties, so much so that Ted Gibson, the No 7, said he felt as if he was rowing in a boat from hell. The crew agreed with the sentiments and named the boat in recognition.

"It was a trough. After it, the crew took off," Travis said. Travis is not in the crew; he is the first non-rowing president since 1947, when a man called Archie Nicholson was in the same position. Cambridge won that year.

A more substantial pointer to victory comes from Pritchard, who, with two successive defeats behind him, is something of an authority on losing the Boat Race. He does not expect to add to this kind of experience. "We are an older crew than in previous years and we have a great deal of international experience," he said. "It makes a significant psychological difference. We know our abilities and we know we don't have to row out of our skins to give a once-a-lifetime performance if we are to win. We simply have to perform to our full potential, no more. I believe that will be enough."

Simon Barnes

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Selectors give in over Dew

By Richard Eaton

There will be cries of "player power" following the decision yesterday to allow Martin Dew to travel separately from the England squad for the world team championships in Jakarta next month.

The European doubles champion has been in dispute with Jake Downey, the England manager, who dropped the player from the squad when he refused to travel with the team. Downey's actions, however, led many of the top players to call for Dew's inclusion and eventually led to the players' petition for Downey's removal from his post.

Downey subsequently won a vote of confidence from the executive committee of the Badminton Association of England — although yesterday he received anything but that from his own selectors. Discussing matters independently they voted unanimously to change the decision that the squad travels together. "Dew is an indispensable part of the team and therefore must be included."

Porterfield dismissed

Sheffield United's football supporters finally got their way yesterday with the dismissal of the manager, Ian Porterfield. The subject of demonstrations and abuse from supporters, Porterfield was dismissed at an emergency board meeting.

The chairman, Reg Brealey, said: "The decision was taken with regret but has been made because it became increasingly apparent that the manager had lost the confidence of the fans. It is in the best interests of all concerned that he should go."

The youth team coach, Billy McEwan, will take charge until the end of the season while the board look for a replacement. Among the favourites will be Trevor Cherry, who steered neighbouring Bradford City to the second division last season.

Pyatt in line

Chris Pyatt, of Leicester, who recently won the British light middleweight title from Prince Rodney, has been confirmed by the European Boxing Union as the official contender for the European championship, held by Said Skoura, of France.

Navratilova: Czech return



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Service return

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Twin call-up

Chris Bailey, aged 17, of Norfolk, and Hampshire's Lawrence Matthews, aged 18, have been called up by the British national tennis team manager, Paul Hutchins, to the new Laing LTA 1986 team. The pair join existing members, Austen Brice (Cheshire) and Jason Goodall (Berkshire), in a squad which will compete in European junior tournaments. Hutchins said: "They are both in their final year as juniors and will benefit tremendously."

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Charity goals

Kenny Dalglish has pledged to help the Scottish public who have helped him become one of the country's best-loved footballers. The Liverpool player-manager, who won his 100th cap against Romania on Wednesday, is to give a "substantial sum" from his testamentary fund to charities.

Sibson bout

Tony Sibson continues his bout-a-month campaign when he meets Alex Ramos, of the United States, on April 16. It will be the third instalment of his comeback which has brought him two impressive wins. The contest will be staged at the Royalty Theatre in London.